

Britain agrees to attend EEC rescue meeting

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The compelling need for the European Community to resolve its internal differences reassured itself with unexpected suddenness yesterday, when the French presidency convened an emergency extra meeting of foreign ministers next Tuesday.

The invitation from Paris was received in London before the Cabinet assembled to discuss its response to the breakdown at the Brussels summit on Tuesday night.

It was at once agreed that Sir Geoffrey Howe should attend, and that consideration of withholding Britain's due payments to the Community should be abandoned.

The Prime Minister told the Commons later that the Government welcomed the French initiative and, in the circumstances, would not take any action which might damage the prospect of decisive progress next week.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's restraint after her urgency of the previous day excited some derision from the Labour benches, but relief among Government supporters whose alarm at the previous course of events had been steadily growing.

But the Cabinet approved what ministers regard as a legitimate minimal response to the decision by the nine other Community members to block the rebate, previously agreed, of £457m on Britain's 1983 Budget contribution.

It was decided not to meet the Commission's appeal for Britain to pay £100m in

customs duties and agricultural levies by March 30, ten days before they fall due.

The cash-starved Commission asked for the whip-round a week ago, and the Government was at first prepared to help by putting a short Consolidated Fund Bill through both Houses of Parliament next week.

But it is under no legal compulsion to do so, and Mrs Thatcher said it would consider the position in the light of next week's meeting.

The Prime Minister is convinced that payment of the bulk of the British rebate by the end of March is morally binding on the Nine, since it was agreed at the Stuttgart summit last summer.

She has not claimed that there is a strict legal obligation, and President Mitterrand of France, for one, has always denied that there is. But she regards the lifting of the block next Tuesday as a necessary sign of good faith.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that the talks will resume on Tuesday on the basis of the texts that were before the summit when negotiations were abandoned. She went out of her way again to emphasize that President Mitterrand was "most helpful to us" in trying to draft a system which would endure for solving Britain's Budget problem.

British officials regard the final text produced by the

presidency as very satisfactory from Britain's viewpoint. It uses strong language on the need to restrain costs, and is firmer than earlier drafts in relating contributions to a member country's national wealth.

It would also ensure that the new system would apply this year, so that there would be no need for another ad hoc arrangement.

There were signs yesterday that several Cabinet ministers were more than ready to defer all thought of the illegal and unconstitutional steps for which preparations have been made by officials in case the worst comes to the worst.

Later they faced demands in the Commons from Mr James Callaghan, Mr Peter Shore and others for a statement by the Attorney-General, and even a White Paper setting out the legal consequences.

But there was no inclination to respond. The warm breeze from Paris and the warning noises from Conservative heavyweights have for the present, stilled all talk by ministers of unconstitutional action.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was to have been with the Queen next week on her visit to Jordan. Discussions took place yesterday with the Palace and with Amman to arrange his release from this commitment.

Opening a Commons debate on foreign affairs, Sir Geoffrey said that real progress was made at Brussels earlier in the week, and it was important to build upon it.

Back to Brussels on Tuesday

Ministers try to pick up pieces

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Foreign Ministers of the EEC will begin to pick up the pieces left behind after the European summit collapsed in apparent ruins earlier this week when they meet in Brussels on Tuesday.

France has decided to call a quick meeting as an indication of its intent not to stop work on all the intractable problems which caused the summit to fail. The meeting takes place before Britain is due to make its next budget payment to the Community and any threat to withhold money need be carried out.

It is likely that a number of countries will try at that meeting to persuade France and Italy to lift their objections to paying Britain its promised £457m rebate. They will ask for this to lower the temperature of the debate.

If the Council were to agree, there would still be time to ask the European Parliament to take the necessary vote to release the money during its session in Strasbourg next week. It would then be possible to pay the money over very quickly and thus make it unnecessary

for Mrs Thatcher to take any retaliatory action. Yesterday the agenda for the meeting was still being made final, but it is expected to concentrate on the last compromise paper issued by President Mitterrand at the summit. This paper includes a special formula for reducing the size of Britain's expected net contribution, although it contains no figures at all.

The Foreign Ministers will be meeting just as the agriculture council should be finishing its work of agreeing a price package for the farming year ahead. That council could well succeed in sorting out the argument over Irish milk quotas, which was a contributory cause of the breakdown at the summit.

It is already clear that part of France's strategy for the remaining six months of its presidency is to use the specialist councils to chip away at the remaining problems so that by the time the June summit comes there will be no "vitally important" side issues, such as the Irish milk question, to distract the leaders from the hard core problem of the British budget contribution.

The foreign council is meant to be a low-key working meeting, away from the glare of publicity which contributed so much to the tensions at the summit. Without these pressures the ministers ought to be able to discuss the compromise proposals in a clear atmosphere. The fact that all of them know the complicated dossier far more intimately than their heads of government will also help.

While the ministers try to cool down tempers, the Commission has been trying to persuade the world that the Community is not by any means bankrupt - yet.

Its official spokesman explained yesterday that there was no question at the moment of there being insufficient money to meet all the current bills. The fact that all of them know the complicated dossier far more intimately than their heads of government will also help.

Under Community law every country has the obligation to forward two payments to Brussels each month. The first Continued on back page, col 5



Tête-à-tête: President Mitterrand (left) with President Reagan at the White House yesterday, when he began a state visit to America. Report, page 6.

Remand for bombing charge man

By Stewart Tendler

A Belfast man charged in connection with London bombing incidents was remanded in custody for a week by Lambeth Magistrates yesterday.

Mr Paul Kavanagh, aged 28, was arrested in Belfast last weekend by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and flown to London to be questioned by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, which is investigating the Harrods bombing which killed six people. He was charged with six offences early yesterday.

Mr Kavanagh, of no fixed address, is charged with conspiracy to cause explosions between October 6 and January 25. Other bombings during the period of the charge were carried out near Kensington High Street, Woolwich Arsenal and Oxford Street.

There are four charges involving firearms and explosives discovered in Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire in January. The sixth charge alleges that he conspired with Mr Thomas Quigley and others between August 7 and November 13, 1981 to cause explosions.

During that period, bomb attacks were made on an army coach near Chelsea Barracks; General Sir Stewart Pringle, a Wimpy restaurant, where an explosive expert was killed; the home of the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, and Debenhams in Oxford Street, London.

Yesterday, Mr Kavanagh sat in the dock near Mr Quigley, who has been charged with 10 offences, including the murder of the two civilians at Chelsea Barracks and, Mr Kenneth Howarth, the explosives expert. Mr Quigley has made several court appearances. Both men were remanded in custody.

The court was told that Mr Quigley is due to face criminal proceedings in May and the charge against him involving the 1981 bombings had been amended to include Mr Kavanagh.

The small court in a south London side street was surrounded by a large number of police throughout the hearing.

Britain may pull out of CERN

By Pearce Wright

The Government is poised to withdraw British participation from the European Centre for Nuclear Physics Research (CERN), one of the world's foremost scientific laboratories.

The first indication was given yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

He told the Commons that a review of the UK's participation in high energy physics is to be carried out. His reply to a parliamentary question was a response to a request for an increase of £98m for medical and scientific research in Britain. He has refused.

High energy physics takes £52m a year, and most of that goes for partnership in CERN. More than £35m is a direct subscription for British scientists' work there and another £14m is for work in UK laboratories to prepare experiments for CERN.

Most of a generation of physics Nobel prize winners from Britain, Europe and the United States owe their prizes to discoveries that came from research at the European centre. The studies are designed to understand gravity, electromagnetism, and the nuclear forces that hold matter together.

Cash plea, page 2

The Times gains six press honours

Six writers for *The Times* are honoured today in the British Press Awards. Robert Fisk, the Middle East correspondent, is Journalist of the Year. John Barry, a freelance writer, is named Specialist Writer of the Year for articles in *The Times* with commendations in that category for Suzy Menkes, fashion editor, and Peter Stothard, features editor. Nicholas Timmins, now social services correspondent, and Roger Boyes, Eastern Europe correspondent, are commended in the Reporter and International Reporter of the Year categories. Awards in full, page 5

6,000 moderates ordered to join pit strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

More than 6,000 Lancashire miners are being called out on official strike next week in support of the growing stoppage which has brought the coal industry to an 80 per cent standstill. Many more flying pickets were active in the moderate coalfields yesterday, and there were further arrests.

Men in the traditionally moderate Lancashire area of the National Union of Mineworkers have been told to strike from Monday by local union leaders "in order to maintain unity", even though they voted only a week ago by a majority of nearly two to one not to take industrial action.

Since then all but one of the coalfield's pits have been "picketed out" by miners from Yorkshire and South Wales, and an area conference of the union yesterday appealed for outside pickets to withdraw immediately. The Lancashire miners also added their voice to the growing chorus for a national ballot on strike action and the future of the industry.

The strike situation was practically unchanged last night with 123 collieries out of 176 remaining strikebound or "picketed out" in Yorkshire, Scotland, Northumberland, Durham, South Wales, Lancashire and Kent, and only 37 working normally, chiefly in Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and the south Midlands. That was an improvement of three pits on the "normal work" tally. Fewer pits were described as having men at work but producing no coal.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that the estimated number of pickets throughout the country had increased to 4,600 at 43 sites, although the number of police deployed had been reduced slightly to 7,000. There have been 96 arrests since the strike began, mostly for obstruction.

Open-cast miners who are members of the Transport and

General Workers' Union decided yesterday to support the strike and will refuse to move coal from the pithead at 54 sites.

Steelworkers turned down a miners' plea to black coking coal supplies entering the British Steel plant at Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. The National Coal Board is keeping the legal situation under daily review and may still go back to the High Court to report contempt of injunctions granted last week by Mr Justice Nolan forbidding the Yorkshire miners from organizing or encouraging secondary picketing of neighbouring moderate areas where the men have voted to work normally.

But even if the board went back to court today, under the "short notice" procedure it would be next Wednesday before allegations of contempt could be heard.

National officials of the union, including the president, Mr Arthur Scargill, and the general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, are due in the High Court next week to defend an entirely separate action brought by the board over the union's block on overseas investments by the miners' pension fund.

This litigation may disrupt plans by moderates on the union's national executive to force an immediate session of the executive to discuss the holding of a national ballot on pay and pit closures.

Miners' leaders have dismissed their counsel and plan to defend the action themselves, but an application to delay the proceedings has been rejected.

The slide towards a national strike continued yesterday when more than 650 miners at Hilditch colliery in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Staffordshire, went against their area ballot and voted to join the strike.

A pickets day, page 2

Druze leader fears more fighting in Lebanon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader in Lebanon, was pessimistic about the prospects for peace in his country when he called at the Foreign Office in London yesterday. "I am afraid there will be more fighting," he said sadly as he walked down the steps towards his car, after spending 45 minutes with Mr Richard Luce, the Minister of State with special responsibility for the Middle East.

Mr Jumblatt flew to Britain for a private visit after the collapse of the nine-day reconciliation talks between Beirut's warring factions, and is due in Damascus today for consultations before returning to Lebanon.

Mr Luce expressed Britain's disappointment over the lack of progress at the talks in Lausanne, and the Druze leader promised to continue working for an effective ceasefire in Beirut. But he confessed to reporters that he saw little chance of another conference in the near future.

Earlier in a BBC television interview he accused President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon of not having "the guts" to achieve a historic compromise at Lausanne. He should have made everyone follow prescribed guidelines at the talks. "But he is too weak," he said on *Newsnight*. Now there would be "more blind shelling, more bloodshed."

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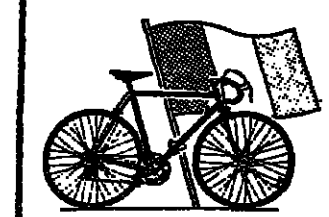
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Tomorrow

Brakes and Breaks
Travel goes cycling through France, visiting Bermuda and taking a break in the Cotswolds



Growing families
Family trees: the boom in genealogy

Prints charming
Investing in poster art for the home

Westward ho
Michael Binyon tells how the West Germans are coping with the flood of refugees from the East

Bailing out
John Woodcock reports on England's last ditch attempt to save the Test series in Pakistan

Woolworth profits pass £29m

Woolworth took the Stock Exchange by surprise with news of £29.4m profits, a significant recovery for the stores chain taken over in a City rescue operation in 1982. The shares rose 28p to 473p. Page 23

Howe to visit Peking

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit China and Hongkong next month. The colony's future will be the main subject in talks he will have with China's Foreign Minister. Page 6

LSD inquiry

Claims that American sailors at Holy Loch, the Scottish nuclear submarine site, used LSD, the hallucinatory drug, on board a US ship at the base, are under investigation. Page 22



La Scala choice

The choice of Riccardo Muti as the next principal conductor at La Scala, Milan, is being seen as proof that opera there is on the upbeat. Page 6

Sect inquiry

The Director of Public Prosecution is studying a report by Scotland Yard on the activities of the Children of God, a small religious sect which allegedly encourages sex with children. Page 3

100 Indians die

Police in the strike-hit Indian port of Paradip killed more than 100 people and set 3,000 huts ablaze in revenge for the deaths of four colleagues, opposition politicians reported. Page 8

Perfect couple

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean received seven perfect marks of six when winning the compulsory dances at the world figure skating championships in Ottawa. Page 28

Leader, page 13

Letters: On defence structure, from Field Marshal Lord Carter; technology, from Mr G. Chaine; vandalized sites, from Mr T. G. Hassall. Leading articles: Tory Central Council; Ireland and the EEC; Excommunication. Features, pages 10-12: George Walden examines Michael Heseltine's defence reforms; Is Norman Tebbit getting wetter? Spectrum: The uneasy mix of art and money; Friday Fash: Gossiping with Sheila Graham; Special Report on Turkey. Obituary, page 14: Roloff Beny, Dr R. W. Heussler

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Mafia extorts £380m a year from Italians

Rome. (AFP) - Protection rackets extort about 900 billion lire (£380m) a year from 146,000 businesses in Italy, according to a study by Confindustria, the main organization representing traders.

Signor Giuseppe Orlando, the organization's president, said at a press conference here yesterday that such rackets affected almost the whole of Italy.

The worst areas were the Mafia territory of Sicily and the region around Naples, where the Mafia's local equivalent, the Camorra, holds sway. In these regions some 40 per cent of businesses are victims

up to 60 per cent of shopkeepers are victims of extortion. In Naples the figure is 65 per cent, in Rome 15 per cent, in Milan 10 per cent.

Signor Orlando said that the figures were particularly worrying as many traders were too frightened to complete his questionnaire even though they could do so anonymously.

Of those who replied, 75 per cent said that at first they refused to pay, but that they gave way after their premises were damaged by fire or a member of the family was attacked.

70 Tories fail to sign Oman motion

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent



Mr Heath (left) and Mr du Cann.

Mr Edward Heath and 69 other Conservative backbenchers had failed to sign the Commons motion supporting the Prime Minister over the Oman university contract when the parliamentary papers went to press on Wednesday.

Yesterday's updated report showed that 241 backbenchers had signed the motion, first tabled by Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the Conservative backbench 1972 committee, and executive colleagues last Thursday.

Support increased from 94 on Thursday, to 120 on Friday, 179 on Monday, and 216 on Tuesday. It had always been recognized as numbers mounted, journalists would begin to take note of those who had not signed.

Excluding the Speakers and a

But signatures, past or future, do not guarantee support. One MP said that, like the Majority of staff at GCHQ, Cheltenham, he had no wish to be left out in the cold. However, he added the view that Mrs Thatcher had "made a mess of the matter" and that her son was "an amiable ass."

Another said that he did not take Labour's claims seriously and that they could therefore be ignored, but he then added: "Who knows where Mark Thatcher is leading her reputation?"

Other MPs were more critical of Mr du Cann. One MP said he needed no lessons in loyalty from Mr du Cann after his "unhelpful" television interview on March 4.

Another said: "I find it too much to be asked to sign a

motion like this by the prince of loyalty himself."

The motion says: "That this House congratulates the Prime Minister on the vigour and success with which she has pursued Britain's interest in securing overseas contracts during her visit to India and the Gulf states in April, 1981 and throughout her period of office; accepts without reservation that the Prime Minister has clearly stated that she neither owned, nor pursued the interests of, Consultation or any other individual company in relation to the Oman University project; and deplores the continuing efforts of the Opposition to discredit the Prime Minister personally and undermine her efforts to win work and jobs for Britain."

It has since been amended by Labour MPs, who add: "and therefore urges the Prime Minister to accept the recommendation of the Right Honourable Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Mr Heath) to make a statement to the House forthwith."

US sailors used LSD at Holy Loch nuclear sub base

By Richard Evans and Ronald Faux

American sailors at Holy Loch, the Scottish nuclear submarine base, used LSD, the hallucinatory drug on board a US ship, it was alleged last night.

They were discovered recently after one man on the vessel supposedly informed US officials because he feared the drug-takers were a danger to themselves and others working near them.

A considerable amount of the drug is believed to have been seized and those involved are now under investigation. If convicted they face dismissal.

The servicemen allegedly involved served on the USS Hunley, the base ship at Holy Loch, which is stationed half a mile off shore. It is a US submarine tender designed to supply services to fleet ballistic missile submarines.

Commander Erwin Sharp, public affairs officer for the US Navy in Europe, told *The Times* last night: "At this point I am unable to deny this."

He said one serviceman who had appeared in the local sheriff court for drug offences was under investigation with another man in connection with separate matters. "I cannot comment on it because it is under investigation."

In December, 1981, documents found on a rubbish tip by a resident near to Holy Loch disclosed that a nuclear weapons guard had marijuana on board a ship and had repeatedly failed to turn up for duty, while a fireman on USS Holland was using and trading in LSD, cocaine and amphetamines.

Three servicemen based at Holy Loch have appeared in Dunoon Sheriff Court this year on drug offences. Another three people, living in flats largely occupied by American personnel, have been in court for similar offences.

The latest allegations involving the Scottish base, home for 10 Poseidon submarines, follow the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that more than one US serviceman stationed in

Britain is being dismissed and sent home every day for using illegal drugs. Some had been on nuclear weapon duties.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, is to be questioned in the Commons by Labour MPs about the extent of drug abuse by US servicemen in Britain.

Mr Kevin McNamara, a Labour defence spokesman, said yesterday: "We are concerned about what people might do when they are high on drugs. It means we have got to look again very carefully at the government statement about the American servicemen moved from Greenham Common."

Fourteen servicemen have been discharged from Greenham, the base of the first cruise missiles in Britain, recently. The Government said none was in a "sensitive position".

"I am very concerned there may be people on sensitive duties in England or elsewhere who might be high on drugs," Mr McNamara said.

American servicemen caught using drugs are increasingly being dealt with by US authorities and are not appearing in court. Of 455 drugs charges preferred last year 46 were heard by courts.

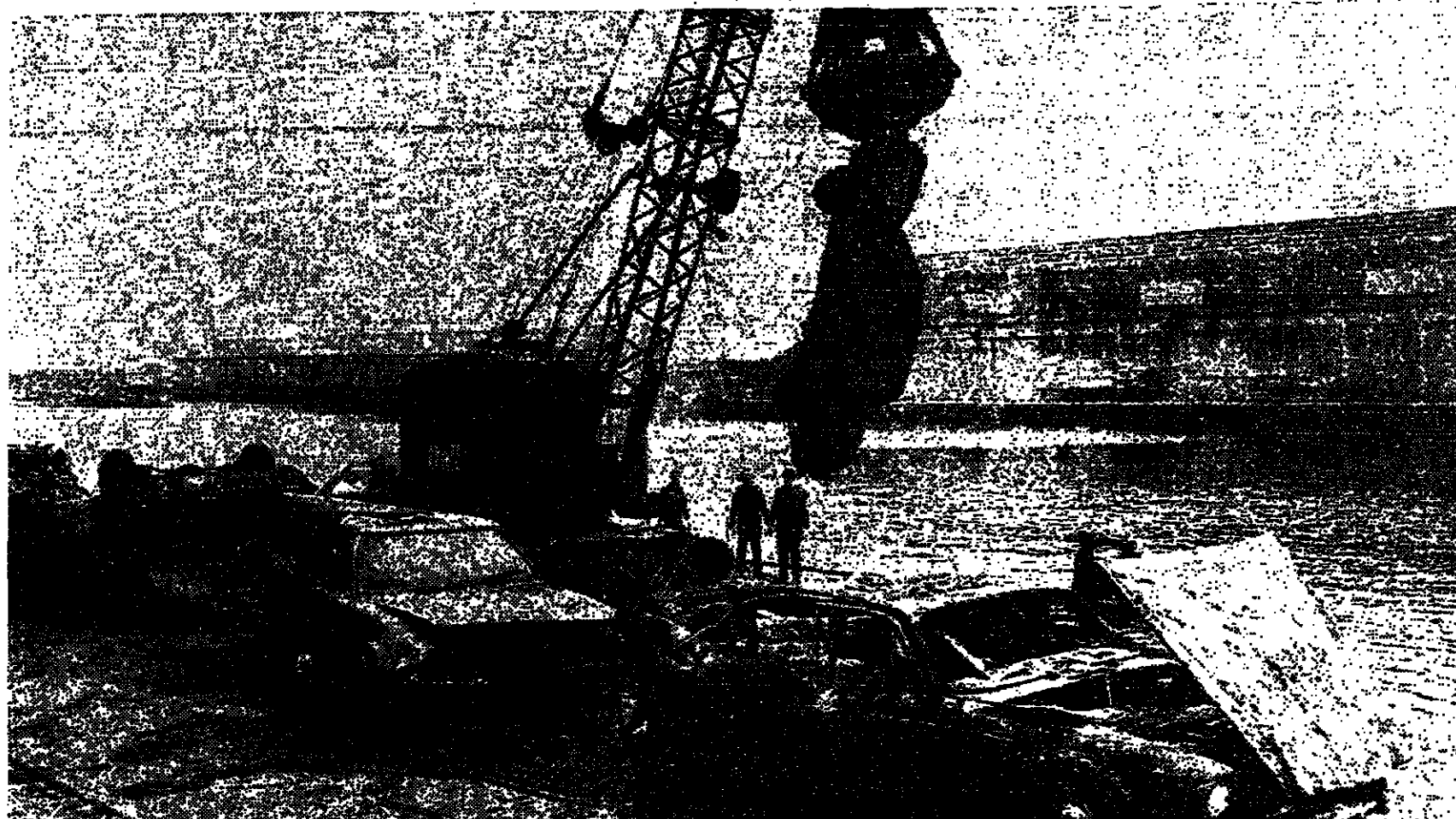
Mr McNamara said: "I think they are taking advantage of the Visiting Forces Act and shipping people off as quickly as possible."

Jupiter refit

● The Leander-class frigate, HMS Jupiter returns to service today after a four-year modernization programme which cost about £65m. (Our Defence Correspondent writes.)

The refit has provided her with Sea Wolf and Exocet missiles, a Lynx helicopter, new sonars and much other new equipment.

Her captain, Commander Colin Hamilton, said that the ship was "an amazing improvement" over the unmodernized Leanders.



End of the road: Dockland developers clearing two London docks, raise the rusted hulks of dumped cars. They have found 200 cars, including two Rolls-Royces. Most of the vehicles have been ditched by thieves and joyriders who hid their crime by submerging the evidence

in the silted basins of Greenland and South docks in Bermondsey, east London. Detectives are checking every car against records. One of the twenty recovered this week was reported stolen 10 years ago. Once salvaged, the cars will be so badly rusted they will be good only

for scrap merchants and Scotland Yard's stolen cars' records. Mr Paul Fawcett, site agent for Edmund Nuttall, the engineers, who have the £300,000 contract to clear the dock before it is converted into a pleasure craft marina, said: "We may yet have a few surprises like an

old mystery solved by finding a pile of old masters in a boat, but so far they are mostly wrecked Mark III Cortinas. Divers have been drawing up a plan charting every car to help to guide the crane driver to the wrecks. (Photograph: John Manning.)

Whitehall forum to examine GCHQ ban

By Peter Hennessy

The Civil Service National Whitley Council, the top forum for industrial relations discussion in Whitehall, will examine the wider impact of the Prime Minister's decision to ban unions at the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham.

Next Wednesday's meeting in the Treasury, the council's first for five years, was agreed to by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, after a request by the Civil Service unions. Sir Robert will be the chairman and he will be accompanied by 19 fellow permanent secretaries.

The union side will be led by Mr William McCall, chairman of the main policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions.

A union official said last night: "The council has called for the meeting to express at the highest level its views on the severe adverse effect on Civil Service industrial relations generally on the arbitrary action taken by the Government in Cheltenham."

"The issue cannot be confined to GCHQ. The reverberations are being felt throughout the Civil Service."

Cigarette tar yields may be reduced

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Average tar yields of cigarettes are intended to be reduced from the present 15 milligrams to 13 over the next four years, under an agreement between tobacco manufacturers and the Department of Health and Social Security announced by the Government last night.

The manufacturers have not given an absolute undertaking to reduce the tar yields, but it is their "stated objective".

The Tobacco Advisory Council said that it had been acknowledged by the department and its advisers, the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health,

that progress so far had depended on consumers' willingness to accept lower tar products.

The industry succeeded in meeting the objective of a previous agreement, to bring tar levels down from about 17.1 milligrams in 1979 to about 15 milligrams by last December.

Kew air review

The Lord Chancellor is to commission an independent survey of the Public Records Office, at Kew including the air-conditioning system, it was announced last night.

£98m more sought for research

By Pearce Wright

Direct predictions about the future of scientific and medical research in Britain are made in a report published yesterday by the Government's Advisory Board for the Research Councils.

The document lists areas of research which will be abandoned and new opportunities that will be lost if there is no increase in the money allocated to the research councils by the Department of Education and Science.

The advisory board, under the chairmanship of Sir David Phillips, professor of molecular biophysics at Oxford University, says that £98m extra should be made available in the next three years.

Last week the Medical Research Council told its research institutes that they face a 21 per cent cut in the money for day-to-day laboratory costs.

The advisory board lists areas for new research, with the amount of money needed to get them started in the coming year. Among them are £2.2m for factory automation research, £3.3m for remote sensing and other environmental science and £1.1m for a new space project for X-ray astronomy.

Exams code

● A confidential draft code of practice governing how universities should examine their students, to ensure degrees are comparable and assessment is fair, is being considered by vice-chancellors (Ngaio Crequer, of *The Times Higher Educational Supplement*, writes).

The code, produced by a committee set up by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, and chaired by Professor Philip Reynolds, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, lays down standards for the external examiner system.

Gun dealer's death on airliner 'no crime'

Scotland Yard said yesterday that no crime was suspected in the death of a Yorkshire gun dealer who was found on an airliner at Heathrow airport.

The body of Mr John Longstaff, aged 36, of Pudsey near Leeds, was discovered in the lavatory of a British Airways Boeing 737 as it arrived in London from Frankfurt on Wednesday. His throat was cut and an implement was found near by.

Yesterday as a post-mortem examination was carried out, Scotland Yard denied a report that Mr Longstaff had been under investigation by Special Branch detectives.

Mrs Linda Longstaff said she had intended to meet her husband in Bradford. She knew of no reason why he should kill himself and claimed that he may have been "pressured" for some reason.

Killing verdict on nurse

A Finnish student nurse, whose skeleton was found last November in a wood in the Duke of Marlborough's Blenheim Palace estate, was killed unlawfully, an inquest decided yesterday. Dr Stephen Cordner, a Home Office pathologist, told the inquest in Oxford that Eila Karjalainen, aged 23, from London had been dead for between three and twelve months. She had been strangled.

Public inquest for banker

The High Court gave approval yesterday for a public inquest into the death in Moscow of a British banker, Mr Denis Skinner. Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Gidwell gave directions to the coroner, Dr Mary McHugh, to "get on with it".

Mr Skinner, aged 54, of Treve Avenue, Harrow, fell to his death from an eleventh floor flat in June last year.

Damages for drug injection

Mr Paul Barbara, a mini-cab driver aged 41, who was injected with a large, tranquilizing drug, without his consent while on remand at Brixton prison in 1978, won £600 damages for his hurt feelings in the High Court yesterday.

But Mr Justice Leggett refused his claim for substantial exemplary damages against the Home Office for unlawful assault, battery and trespass.

Ridgway breaks sailing record

John Ridgway arrived home to a hero's welcome in the north of Scotland yesterday after breaking the round-the-world sailing record by 93 days.

Friends and relatives gathered at Ardmore, Sutherland, to greet Ridgway and his crewman, Andrew Briggs. They were at sea for 193 days.

Refugees barred

Five Cuban refugees who have been shuttled across the Atlantic five times by British Airways after being refused entry to the Bahamas, Jamaica and Bermuda have been told they cannot enter Britain, but can remain in immigration officers' custody until they are found a permanent home.

The coalfield dispute Frustration on a freezing picket line

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, South Elmsall, West Yorkshire

Stephen Tulley, aged 26, is a flying picket and proud of it. He stands in the freezing cold outside Nottinghamshire pits watching with disbelief as moderate miners break the hallowed rule that colliers do not cross picket lines.

A face worker at Frickley colliery, in the traditionally militant Doncaster area, he signs up almost every day to beat the police cordon thrown round the mines over the county border.

Why does he do it? The question is less appropriate when put in the miners' institute than it is in London. His face takes on a patient expression as he explains that a miners' strike has to be total if they are to compel the National Coal Board to drop plans for the axing of 20 pits and 20,000 jobs.

He is not impressed by the majesty of the law. "I believe it is my legal right to travel to other coalfields to talk to our brothers in the NUM and try by

friendly persuasion to get them to support us," he argues. A married man with two children, a mortgage and only dim schoolboy memories of the big strikes of 1972 and 1974, he fears for the future of his pit even though £20m has been spent on modernizing it in recent years.

"I have no savings, but I feel this is a fight we must win. If we don't win now - and the only way to win is by everybody fighting together - then I shall be on the dole in five years' time."

The men in Nottinghamshire evidently do not share his fears. "We have had a mixed response," he admits. "We seem to live in two different lifestyles as miners. To me, a picket line is a protest and you do not go across."

The police tactics have left flying pickets like Mr Tulley bewildered and frustrated. When they finally reach their destination miles beyond the initial cordon of officers stop-

ping vehicles, to warn their occupants away, it is very cold and demoralizing.

"I can't explain how you feel when you travel all that way and they pin you in like sheep. Today, I don't think we turned anybody back. It feels as though you are wasting your time, but at least we are showing our presence. They know we are here, and it's costing £500,000 a day to keep the police there."

A third-generation miner with five brothers in the pit, Mr Tulley will be out again on the picket line as the mood of industrial action tightens around Nottinghamshire.

Of the anti-strike ballot there last week he says: "I am denying nobody the right to vote, but in my opinion Nottinghamshire miners have voted in ignorance."

His fellow pickets in the Empire workmen's club took a more robust (and unprintable) view of the police and the miners they are seeking to dissuade from working. He does not talk to the police

on the picket line, and finds it astonishing that miners were able to form up in military fashion outside Bilsthorpe colliery, Nottinghamshire, with 100 policemen around them and march behind a chief inspector through the pit gates while Yorkshire miners looked on open-mouthed.

Several of the older men are less surprised, but much of the picketing is being done by men in their twenties and even late teens. Some, called "suicide squads", would like to step up the action physically to prevent any normal working in the pits. But the official line, strongly supported by Mr Tulley, is to play it cool and send only a handful of pickets to each pit.

And what is winning? "We want the coal board's plan to get rid of twenty thousand jobs reversed," he said. "I would like to see us go all the way and see the actual downfall of this Government and the return of a Labour government that will put this industry back to work."

Police lines face a cut

● Labour-controlled Nottinghamshire council will today consider scaling down its police operation at the county's coalpits after failing to convince the Government that it should pay most of the additional costs.

● Mr Terry Crowe, chairman of Staffordshire council's public protection committee, has called for a reduction in the number of police on duty at collieries in the county.

● Police operations on the miners' picket lines in Derbyshire were described by the county council's policy committee as "intimidatory and totally unnecessary".

● After scuffles on the picket line at Hen Heath Colliery, Stoke-on-Trent, six miners - including one from South Wales - appeared before magistrates and were fined between £75 and £250 each.

● Gregory Dancer, aged 30, a miners' union official from Wolstanton Colliery, in Staffordshire, was fined £300 by Newcastle-under-Lyme magistrates for assaulting two police officers.

How an Economy 7 electric boiler can bring down heating costs.

If you are thinking of replacing your existing oil boiler then you should know that there is a new way to bring down your heating costs.

And that way is with electricity. Economy 7 electricity.

Economy 7 overnight electricity costs less than half the price of today's normal domestic rate. Now it can be used with a new kind of electric boiler to provide central heating at a saving of up to 35% on present day oil bills.

One householder said: "For our large 3-bedroomed house, running

costs are now only £5.90 a week."

The Economy 7 electric boiler can be connected to any normal existing radiator system.

Not surprisingly, the Economy 7 electric boiler, which runs on Economy 7 electricity, is changing the balance of heating costs. So

if you are thinking of replacing your present boiler, find out more about it before you decide. Post the coupon to the address below or telephone Freefone BuildElectric for further information on running costs, and installation in a home like yours.

For more information on the Economy 7 Boiler, post this coupon to: Electricity Publications, PO Box 2, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TG.

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My present central heating system is _____

— THE BALANCE IS CHANGING —

HEATELECTRIC

with **ECONOMY 7**
The Electricity Council, England & Wales

Sale room

Unused library boosts historic home fund

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

An eighteenth century Mitchell Library, Glasgow, at £367 (estimate £50 to £80) and Ray's *The Wisdom Manifested in the Works of Creation*, of 1758, made £238 (estimate £50 to £80).

The books were sent for sale by Captain Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss and came from Rosdhu, his historic home which is open to the public. The library was sold because it was never used - apparent from the books' condition, to set up an endowment to maintain the house.

Pamphlets were in high demand, with the National Library of Scotland paying £5,616 (estimate £300 to £500) for 35 items about the riot in Edinburgh Play-House in January, 1767, when some young lawyers destroyed the theatre because of a cast change.

A group of pamphlets by Daniel Defoe and other writers about the Act of Union of 1707, bound in contemporary speckled calf, sold for £3,672 (estimated £300 to £500), to Hughes Rare Books.

Scottish printing was well represented, with the finest work of the first printer in Aberdeen, Edward Raban *Furner's of a Right Reverend Father in God, Patrick Forbes*, of 1633, selling for £394 (estimate £200 to £300) to Brooke-Hitching.

Out of a good group of books from the eighteenth century Foulis Press, of Glasgow, there were two titles with no other known copy. *Sherlock's A Practical Discourse Concerning Death*, of 1761, went to the

Overseas selling prices: Australia £25; Belgium £10; Canada \$100; Denmark £10; France £10; Germany £10; Greece £10; Holland £10; India £10; Italy £10; Japan £10; Korea £10; Mexico £10; New Zealand £10; Norway £10; Portugal £10; Russia £10; Spain £10; Sweden £10; Switzerland £10; Taiwan £10; Thailand £10; USA \$100; Yugoslavia £10.

PM pins hopes on next week's special meeting

EEC BUDGET

The Government would not take any action which might damage the prospects of decisive progress at next Tuesday's special meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, stated during questions in the Commons.

In welcoming the French initiative in calling the special meeting, Mrs Thatcher indicated, however, that the Government would not be asking the House of Commons to consider next week the £100m supplementary estimate for an advance to the EEC Commission which had been due to be considered by MPs.

She hoped that next week's meeting would lead to the unlocking of the funds due to the United Kingdom and that it would go a great deal further on a system and the amounts for a long-term settlement of the Community's budgetary problems.

The exchanges on the issues were opened by Mr Geoffrey Rippon who as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1970-72 played a leading part in negotiating Britain's entry to the EEC. He congratulated the Prime Minister on the firm stand she had taken at Brussels.

The way in which our partners in the Community have withheld the funds to which we are already entitled the said demonstrates how right she was in pressing for a long-term, stable budgetary structure.

At the same time, will she give the House an assurance that she will continue to negotiate patiently and that the Government does not contemplate any retaliatory illegal action which might undermine our position? (Labour intervention).

The future of Western Europe is not

something that can be considered in terms of nice calculations.

Mrs Thatcher: I regret the fact that France and Italy have so far blocked our 1983 refunds.

We have learnt this morning that the Presidency of the Community intend to hold a special meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels on Tuesday next week on the basis of the texts that were on the table at the end of this week's European Council.

We welcome this initiative and in these circumstances the Government will not take any action which might damage the prospect of decisive progress next week.

Our objectives in these negotiations will be to obtain an agreement which meets the requirements I have outlined to the House. In the meantime, we shall not be asking the House to consider the supplementary estimate for an advance to the Commission.

We shall have to consider our position in the light of the outcome of next week's meeting.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition: News of the special meeting is welcome, but how many special meetings are there likely to be?

As £500m of our money is at stake and in view of the strong need for fundamental reform, is she going to go on as if nothing had happened?

Mrs Thatcher: With all due respect, I answered his question before he asked it. How many special meetings there will be, that is by its very nature totally unpredictable.

The Presidency indicating the basis of the special meeting will be the texts on the table at the end of this week's European Council, so that progress made will be taken further.

Refunds are due by agreement between us by March 31. I hope therefore that that meeting will unlock the refunds. I hope also we



Rippon: Negotiate patiently



Owen: Law and order

will get a good deal further on the matter before us in Brussels, namely agreement on a system and amounts for a long-term budgetary settlement of the Community's problems.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport): Welcoming warmly the decision to meet on Tuesday and hoping that it is possible to bridge the narrow divide on the presidency text, the Prime Minister did not answer the question posed by Mr Rippon.

Surely the Cabinet has come to a conclusion on the matter of the constitutional inappropriateness of withholding any contributions. This is not a lever in negotiation but simply a question of law and order. (Laughter and protests).

The House and the country are entitled to a clear-cut view from the British Cabinet that that is unconstitutional and will not be considered, and that we shall not see the Prime Minister hotting up the issue by reference to the acolytic press.

Mrs Thatcher: If anyone is hotting up the issue, it is Dr Owen. I gave the answer of the decision taken this morning, and heaping upon me the Government will take no action of decisive progress next week.

Our objective will be to obtain an agreement which meets our requirements. Why is he trying to hot it up?

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP): Her reply to Mr Rippon would indicate to many people that despite the rhetoric and resolution the way is being prepared for

another sell-out. The idea of 'taining our own funds has been described as unconstitutional. Is that the case under the British constitution?

Mrs Thatcher: I am not prepared to give a legal opinion on a question which has not yet arisen and a decision which has not yet been taken. I hope he will approve the course of action which the Government is taking.

As the presidency of the Community who was most helpful to us in trying to draft a system last week and in putting it to the Community, has called another meeting based on those identical texts, I hope he will think that the best way forward is to try to seek the settlement we want on our own budgetary refunds and to try to secure at that meeting, in conjunction with a decision by the European Assembly, a decision to unblock the refunds, which will then be repaid by March 31.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Did she listen to the Today programme in which Mr Roy Jenkins declared that he would have accepted the deal on offer in Brussels on Tuesday?

On border security generally, I am deeply aware and conscious of the views of people near or on the border and I do try to take this very much into account in my discussions with the operational commanders.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab): Will he give an undertaking that the people charged will be brought to trial within a reasonable time and not interminably by stealth?

Mr Prior: This is a matter of great concern. It is not a matter directly for me but for the judicial authorities.

Every effort is made to bring people to trial as quickly as possible but there are a number of problems, not least the desire of defendants to choose particular counsel and the availability of that counsel.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Warley West, Lab): On border crossings, would he agree that closing roads is only a minor inconvenience to terrorists who can cross by foot or by tractor, while it is a real problem to legitimate travellers who travel openly on public highways?

Will he think again on whether the irritation and loss of goods will not be worth more to the terrorists than they lose?

Mr Prior: These are all matters that do have to be taken into consideration. If a border crossing is closed and subsequently re-opened there is simply no point in closing it in the first place unless one has security forces actually manning that particular closure.

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Howe seeks broader dialogue and more frequent contacts with Soviet Union

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced during a debate in the Commons that he intended to visit China in mid-April for talks with Chinese leaders on the future of Hongkong. Great progress would be needed to reach agreement about the future of the colony, he said.

He also announced that Britain would be withdrawing her forces from the multinational peacekeeping force in the Lebanon.

Opening the debate, Sir Geoffrey Howe said the gap which separated Britain from the other EEC countries was more important than the figures alone suggested.

What was finally put forward at the Brussels summit did not offer a systematic, equitable and lasting approach to the problem.

Real progress (he said) was made and it will be important to build upon it - that was also the view of the French President - and not to allow the prospect of early decisions to slip away.

In negotiations about the future of Hongkong the Government was concerned that the basis of the present legal and social system would continue with an economy open to world markets and that citizens of Hongkong should be able to speak and travel as they wished.

Great patience would be needed by both sides to reach an agreement which would be acceptable to all involved. He could not predict precisely how long the talks would continue, but the eleventh round would be on March 26 and 27.

I shall be visiting China in mid-April (he said) for talks on Hongkong with the Chinese foreign minister and other Chinese leaders and from there I shall travel to Hongkong.

We are still negotiating. The shape of the final package we bring to the House for approval will be crucial.

One of the important conditions was the acceptability of the outcome to the British Parliament and that implied they had to take that into account.

On the Falkland Islands, he said that better relations with the new Government of Argentina was in the British interest and that the Falkland Islands. There should be no mistake that Britain stood firmly by its commitments.

They would do what was necessary to defend the islands, but progress was possible but Britain would not negotiate about the sovereignty of the islands.

The problems of the Middle East would be important enough if they were simply regional, but there was a central risk of them becoming more than that. The Gulf war was an obvious example.

The risk of disruption of oil supplies should not be exaggerated, but was there.

There were no truths in the allegation that the United Kingdom had supplied chemical weapons to Iraq. They had supplied no lethal items to either side.

He did not at present see an independent role for the United Kingdom in the mediation process but supported UN efforts.

We are very much aware of the dangers and possible consequences of escalation (he said). We shall be ready, if need arises, to work with others to protect our interests and those of our friends. All diplomatic channels should be exhausted before considering any question of military or other action to clear the straits.

If events did move in that direction it would be important to ensure that the Soviet Union had no misunderstanding of our intentions.

Lebanon remained another potential flash point. Following the conclusion of the Lausanne talks, they saw no possibility of the British contingent of the multinational force being again used in Beirut.

We have therefore decided (he said) after consultation with the Lebanese Government, to withdraw it to the United Kingdom. We have informed our partners in the Multinational force of our decision.

We have been of the view that the United Nations should be more widely involved in peacekeeping in Lebanon. They should not take the Soviet veto of a move to strengthen the observer force in Beirut as the last word. As a first step, the UN could be encouraged to do more with the personnel already on the spot. They had pressed for the UN contingent in south Lebanon to do more to help maintain security and protect civilians.

The UN secretariat was active in canvassing the opinions and would continue to have full British support.

Britain's position on East-West relations was clear. Britain believed in talking to the Russians on the basis of confidence - confidence in the alliance, confidence in Britain's capacity to defend its way of life and in the principles on which its society was based, and confidence of the Soviet Union in the Soviet Union.

One of the lessons of the last few years was that negotiations on arms control could not bear the full weight of East-West relations or flourish in a political atmosphere of misunderstanding and mistrust. So they must try to broaden the dialogue and increase the range and frequency of contacts with the Soviet Union.

Mr Gromyko's deputy, Mr Kornienko, would visit London next week for consultations with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and he (Sir Geoffrey Howe) would be visiting Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet government in July.

It was in Britain's interests as well as theirs that Soviet leaders should have a better knowledge of the West as possible. Meetings would therefore help but would only bear fruit in time and only if they involved a great deal of calm but plain talking.

Britain would make plain its concern about the Soviet military build-up. The re-opening of the MBFR talks in Vienna last week was a welcome step but the Russians should also return to the negotiating table in Geneva.

Britain would continue to reject the specious arguments put forward by the Soviet leaders to justify their massive occupation of Afghanistan, whose people should be allowed to determine their own future freely.

The countries of eastern Europe should be able to choose the policies which best reflected their people's wishes and this was nowhere more important than in Poland.

Even in areas where common interests were acknowledged, Soviet policy worked in a time-frame which could be frustrating to the West. They must therefore show themselves ready for the long haul.

The key to better East-West relations lay in a strong and confident transatlantic relationship. He sometimes got the impression the Opposition thought the worst of every proposal by the alliance and the best of every by the Soviet Union. The Labour Party had tended to become a cheer leader for policies which would weaken the defence of Britain and the alliance as a whole.

Shared responsibility was crucial to the defence relationship over the Falkland Islands on one side for the relationship remained crucial to Britain's security.

The object of the Government's foreign policy was to protect and promote British interests and to ensure the stability and prosperity of the UK. That was done in conjunction with Britain's friends, allies and partners. The policies were consistent, soundly based and had proved successful and these were the lines on which they proposed to continue.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Leeds East, Lab) said the collapse of US policy in so many parts of the world put a heavy responsibility on America's European allies to try to guide that policy into wiser paths. But the fiasco of the EEC summit meeting in Brussels, following a similar fiasco in Athens, had not created a better climate for a European initiative on the wider issues.

He feared that the obsession of all sides with the financial problems inside the Common Market was as damaging a blight on Europe's approach to the wider problems as the Vietnam war was on the possibility of constructive US policies in other parts of the world.

After a bad start the Government was handling the Hongkong negotiations sensibly. The Opposition had no intention of making its difficult task more difficult and hoped in return that the Foreign Secretary would give the House a

longer time to begin to draw and perhaps ultimately to melt away. The West must ensure that it maintains an adequate, effective defence.

He could not see progress being possible on the Palestinian problem so long as the United States adopted such a one-sided posture and the Israeli government was as inflexible as the present administration had been.

Mr Francis Pym (South East, Conservative, C) said there was a need for a permanent and patient dialogue between the West and the Soviet Union to lower tensions and lessen the risks of mistakes. He welcomed the news that Sir Geoffrey Howe was to visit Moscow.

The chance exists (he said) for the long Russian to begin to draw and perhaps ultimately to melt away. The West must ensure that it maintains an adequate, effective defence.

He was much encouraged by what the Prime Minister had said during question time on the EEC negotiations.

The narrow view (he said) was of Britain's self-interest. That is to insist that the refund to which we are entitled must be paid in the last penny, or almost. This carries the danger of ceding up humping the very people this is designed to protect, namely ourselves.

There is a risk that if we get all our way on the budget we are less likely to do so on other issues. There is also the damage to public opinion. The British people may be encouraged towards a feeling of nationalism.

Understandably and rightly, the Government was reluctant to compromise on the principle at stake - the principle of membership on which the community was based and without which it could not function.

He was not asking Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Prime Minister to choose between those two principles, but to understand the need for a reasonable balance between them.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, (Tweeddale, Etnick and Lauderdale, L) said his criticism was not of the Prime Minister for standing up for British interests in the EEC. They expected her to do the same for Britain when leading to constant disruption.

The general impression was that the Prime Minister was only interested in 'getting her own money back'. The interest would be a better one if Britain showed itself more willing to embrace the political objectives of the Community as a whole. She had shown a particularly blinkered shopkeeper approach.

I understand he (continued) that President Alfonsín is prepared to exchange diplomatic representatives with Britain and to begin talks on

Further report on developments following his visit to China and Hongkong in April.

He has written to the Foreign Secretary to deplore the decision to send observers to this weekend's presidential elections in El Salvador. It would have been far better if the Government had not appeared to sanctify this macabre charade.

The real danger in Central America was that if President Reagan's policy collapsed in El Salvador he might seek revenge by stepping up his attempt to bring down the government of Nicaragua. America's friends in Europe had a duty to join the growing number of senators and congressmen in Washington and ordinary Americans throughout the United States who were seeking to grab the US back at the eleventh hour from a catastrophe in Central America which could be even more far-reaching in its effects than the catastrophe in the Near East. It was vital to the interests of the alliance that the Foreign Secretary should abandon his doormat diplomacy in Central America.

Farther south the Government had a more direct responsibility. The Argentine Government had already come close to ending its dispute with Chile and was now seeking to restore normal relations with the United Kingdom.

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Tour would damage sport

PM's QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, reiterated the Government's view that a tour of South Africa by the English Rugby Union could be damaging to international sport.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab) had asked Mrs Thatcher to get in touch with the English Rugby Union and ask them to call off the dogs.

Will she point out to them (he said) that such a tour will bring comfort to a morally repugnant regime while at the same time putting in danger the Commonwealth Games which are planned to be held in Edinburgh?

Mrs Thatcher: The Gloucestershire Agreement has been affirmed. It is voluntary but I must make clear that we genuinely discourage the rugby tour of South Africa because of the damaging consequences it could have for the Commonwealth and international sport.

£650m spent to assist Liverpool

The Government has spent about £650m over the past few years on measures to help Liverpool. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons. (Over the past few years (she said) capital expenditure on Merseyside under the Department of the Environment's main programmes has reached something like £650m. That is the measure of the kind of support which has been given by this Government or by actions taken through this Government, to try to help the situation in Liverpool.)

She made these comments after Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen, B) asked how she squared her stand on this country's EEC contributions with the hypocrisy of the attacks on Liverpool City Council and her unwillingness to concede £50m to Liverpool people.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private Members' Bill: Tobacco Products (Control of Advertising, Sponsorship and Sales Promotion) Bill, second reading.

Border security never as good as could be wished

ULSTER

About half of the border crossings between Northern Ireland and the Republic are now closed. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

Mr James Nicholson (Newry and Armagh, OUP) had asked him to report on the fiasco of attempts to close border crossings? Has this been abandoned (he went on) in deference to representations made to him by the Irish ambassador?

Mr Prior: No, but the question of further closures of border crossings is being kept under review and considered.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone, OUP): My constituents were considerably heartened by his frankness. If not his message, during his recent television interview when he stated border security has never been good.

What steps does he hope to take to improve border security? I hope he will not put this House off with this Government or by actions taken through this Government, to try to help the situation in Liverpool.

She made these comments after Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen, B) asked how she squared her stand on this country's EEC contributions with the hypocrisy of the attacks on Liverpool City Council and her unwillingness to concede £50m to Liverpool people.

Mr Prior: It is my responsibility which I fully accept, but operational duties are the responsibility of the GOC and the Chief Constable. I accept that border security is never as good as I would wish to see it and I accept that remark, but it is not only a problem of border security in Northern Ireland, it is internal security as well.

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP): Would it be a matter for the GOC and Chief Constable. It is his responsibility.

Mr Prior: I am responsible for which I fully accept, but operational duties are the responsibility of the GOC and the Chief Constable. I accept that border security is never as good as I would wish to see it and I accept that remark, but it is not only a problem of border security in Northern Ireland, it is internal security as well.

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munity concerning what has taken place? Is he aware that what happened after Darkley and we are back to a pre-Darkley position?

Will he respond to representations made to him by many sections of the community in Northern Ireland that certain border crossings should be closed and intersections along the border should be manned to keep terrorists

on a permanent basis but much more on an in and out basis?

Mr Prior: I am deeply aware and conscious of the views of people near or on the border and I do try to take this very much into account in my discussions with the operational commanders.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Hull North, Lab): Will he give an undertaking that the people charged will be brought to trial within a reasonable time and not interminably by stealth?

Mr Prior: This is a matter of great concern. It is not a matter directly for me but for the judicial authorities.

Every effort is made to bring people to trial as quickly as possible but there are a number of problems, not least the desire of defendants to choose particular counsel and the availability of that counsel.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Warley West, Lab): On border crossings, would he agree that closing roads is only a minor inconvenience to terrorists who can cross by foot or by tractor, while it is a real problem to legitimate travellers who travel openly on public highways?

Will he think again on whether the irritation and loss of goods will not be worth more to the terrorists than they lose?

Mr Prior: These are all matters that do have to be taken into consideration. If a border crossing is closed and subsequently re-opened there is simply no point in closing it in the first place unless one has security forces actually manning that particular closure.

Mr Prior: It is not true that security forces are back to their pre-Darkley level. They are not. There are additional forces deployed, mostly in a covert manner, in these particular areas.

On the guarding of intersections, it is the view of the operational commanders more attention should be paid to them but not necessarily

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Protection of Archway inspector

HOUSE OF LORDS

The events which had led to the resignation of the inspector at the Archway Road improvement inquiry had been intolerable and should not be allowed to happen again, but it was not a change of the law that was needed, rather enforcement of existing legislation.

Lord Hailsham, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, said during a debate in the House of Lords.

Replying the Lord Harris of Greenwich (SDP), who had asked if the Government proposed any changes in procedure or the law following the disturbances at the inquiry and the harassment of the inspector, Lord Hailsham said: When the next inspector is appointed I propose to make sure

that he is aware of the facilities available to him for monitoring incoming telephone calls, sifting his mail and the protection of his residence with an adequate police presence and I will alert my colleagues as to my actions.

I will also seek to ensure that the inspector is made fully aware of his powers under the Public Meeting Act, that the meeting is properly stewarded and the police are alerted to the possibility of disorder.

Lord Harris of Greenwich: Would it be appropriate to see whether any possible clarification of the law is necessary?

Lord Hailsham: My belief is that some minor clarification of the law may well be desirable and I have discussed this with my colleagues.

My conviction is that this is a question of administration and preventive action rather than of a defect in the law.

Regional trends 2: Earnings

Scotland moves up the wealth league as West Midlands decline

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Scotland emerges from the latest set of regional statistics as an area of strong recent economic growth where incomes and earnings have reached almost the level of London and the South-east.

Long considered one of the United Kingdom's poorest regions and deserving special assistance, Scotland has jumped several places in the league tables showing economic well being, while continuing to enjoy above-average public spending on health and education.

Gross domestic product per head - a measure of income from employment and profits - grew relative to the UK average during the 1970s, thanks in some measure to North Sea oil and gas. In 1976 Scotland's GDP per head was 95 per cent of the United Kingdom average, but in 1981 it rose to 98 per cent. In parallel, gross weekly earnings of Scottish workers rose significantly. They are lower than in the South-east, but higher than in any other region. In 1981 Scottish incomes after tax were £3,008 per head, the United Kingdom average. Scottish GDP per head was £3,547, second only to the South-east's £4,177.

Other signs of Scottish economic recovery include capital spending per head, higher in 1981 than anywhere else in the UK except Wales. That may be due to Scottish Development Agency and Scottish Office efforts to attract investment.

Scotland of course has problems. Its overall unemployment rate, 14.9 per cent, is still above the 13 per cent UK average. There is a special problem of youth unemployment too. Scot-

tish crime rates are notably high.

But Scotland appears to gain from social policy spending. There are proportionately more teachers and more doctors than elsewhere.

If Scotland is a relative success story among the regions, the West Midlands shows every sign of decline. Since 1971 the region's economic performance has been consistently below average and GDP per head fell from 103 per cent of the UK figure to 90 per cent in 1981.

The problems of Black Country manufacturing are evident. Capital spending in industry is only two-fifths of the UK average. In most of the region, unemployment has risen to 15.5 per cent; weekly earnings of men are now below those of most other regions, pushing personal disposable income per head down to 93 per cent of the average.

Conditions of life in the region still show some influence of its former predominance as the car manufacturing centre of the UK. A higher proportion of households than average own at least one car.

Next: The regional quality of life

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER HEAD

% UK average*	1971	1981
North	86.9	94.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	93.3	92.4
East Midlands	96.6	95.5
East Anglia	93.6	96.9
South-east	113.7	115.9
Greater London	124.5	128.6
South-west	94.8	95.3
West Midlands	102.8	90.3
North-west	96.2	95.1
Wales	88.3	84.6
Scotland	93.0	98.4
N Ireland	74.3	75.5

* Excludes some proceeds from UK offshore oil activities

Secondary education reforms proposed

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Reforms in London schools which would enable 14-year-olds to learn in blocks of between six and eight weeks rather than over a two-year examination syllabus are proposed in a 150-page report published yesterday.

The five-year plan for London's 153 secondary schools, prepared by an independent committee under the chairmanship of Dr David Hargreaves, reader in education at Oxford University, are designed to raise standards.

Dr Hargreaves, who is soon to become the Inner London Education Authority's chief inspector for schools, said that it was the first such inquiry to be carried out in the history of British education. Commissioned by the authority to look particularly at underachievement among working class children, the inquiry finds these pupils do much worse than they should and an

important cause is that teachers do not expect enough of them.

One of its 104 recommendations is that secondary school teachers need more help and more on-the-job training, and that each school should set up a development committee to look at how individual teachers are progressing.

Other important proposals are that parents be more involved in their children's education through "welcome" signs at the school gate, regular open days and clear communication, and that older pupils be brought more into the running of the school on issues such as policy, such as the curriculum, distribution of resources and rules and sanctions.

The report approves of class monitor and prefect systems and says: "In those schools where older pupils are given defined privileges, roles and responsibilities, behaviour is noticeably more adult."

Union chief wins libel damages

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, won "substantial" undisclosed libel damages against the satirical magazine *Private Eye* in the High Court yesterday.

His counsel, Mr Peter Bowsher, QC, told Mr Justice Hirst that two articles in the magazine in 1982 had accused Mr Jenkins of being a "strike-breaker" and "ignoring an official picket line when he flew to a union conference in Miami from Heathrow during a strike by airport workers."

In fact, Mr Bowsher said, Mr Jenkins had been in touch with the national organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, whose members were in dispute at terminals one and two, to see whether he should cancel his flight. He was told that as he was leaving from terminal three he would not be strike breaking.

Robert Fisk is Journalist of the Year

By David Nicholson-Lord

Robert Fisk, the Middle East Correspondent of *The Times*, is named today as Journalist of the Year, the highest accolade in the 1983 British Press Awards.

Fisk, who receives £1,000, is praised for his outstanding reports from Lebanon. The citation says he has combined serious analysis with graphic war reporting of the highest order.

"Despite his long stint in the Lebanon and his familiarity with the horrors of the civil war he writes day after day with a sense of tension and compassion as if he was observing it all for the first time. The judges felt that this year he was in a class of his own."

The freelance writer, John Barry, is named as Specialist Writer of the Year for his articles in *The Times*. "No fly on the wall could have produced a more detailed and fascinating account of crucial US-Soviet nuclear missile negotiations at Geneva," the judges comment.

"It was a classic of specialist reporting and with the rest of his outstanding entry all in the same extraordinary detail demonstrated his leadership in the most important diplomatic story for a long time." Barry receives £250.



Fisk with a UN convoy in Lebanon last year.

Commended in this category are Suzy Menkes, Fashion Editor of *The Times*, and Peter Stothard, Features Editor of *The Times*. Nicholas Timmins, now Social Services Correspondent of *The Times*, receives a commendation in the Reporter of the Year category, as does Roger Boyes, Eastern Europe correspondent of *The Times* or International Reporter of the Year class. The *Sunday Times* also receives three awards: Hugo Young for Columnist of the Year, Brough Scott for Sports Journalist of the Year, and Robin Morgan for Campaigning Journalist of the Year. John Curry is commended as the Critic of the Year category, as is Ian Jack in the Colour Magazine Writer of the Year section.

Other awards: Philip Basset (Financial Times), Reporter of the Year; Ross Benson (Daily Express), International Reporter of the Year; James Naughtie (The Scotsman), Provincial Journalist of the Year; David Thomas (freelance), Young Journalist of the Year; William Feaver (The Observer Magazine), Colour Magazine Writer of the Year; William Marshall (Daily Mirror), General Feature Writer of the Year; Mark Frankland (The Observer), the David Holden award for foreign reporting; Roger Ramber (The Sun), Photographer of the Year and News Photographer of the Year.

Countryside Commission report

New deal urged for uplands

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Measures to improve the economy in the uplands of England and Wales are urged by the Countryside Commission in a report published yesterday.

The resources put into upland farming and forestry are far greater than those used to back industries, it points out. The necessary increase in support should not be at the expense of agriculture. "But we feel that other elements in the upland economy are being held back."

The report, the result of 15 months of discussions, paints a more optimistic picture than might have been expected. Depopulation appears to have slowed down and many communities could be revitalized.

The commission found "widespread resentment" among country people at the withdrawal of public services, such as village schools, public transport and telephone boxes. Rural housing problems are especially serious in the Lake District, the Peak District and Snowdonia, the report says. Policies are needed to provide housing for local people at costs they can afford. The report emphasized the

importance of the uplands for tourism, sport and recreation. It emphasized the need for wider access, and notes strong opposition to the sale, especially by the Forestry Commission, of publicly-owned land.

In general, large-scale commercial forestry is seen as a greater threat to landscape than modern farming practices. But there is also growing public unease over farm policies apparently directed at maximizing output from the uplands at the expense of social and environmental objectives, it adds.

Neither the planning system nor the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, provides safeguards against unsightly afforestation, or unsuitably-degraded farm and forest buildings and roads, it says. It therefore advocates that planning permission should be required for all roads and buildings, and for all forestry schemes of more than 50 hectares (124 acres).

On the other hand, the future of native broadleaf woodlands is a cause for concern. One way of assisting regeneration would be to confine sheep and cattle

headage payments to farmers who agree to reduce their grazing.

The Nature Conservancy Commission needs more money to fulfil its obligations under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the commission says. Government aid for management agreements in national parks should be increased to 50 per cent, at a cost of about £1.5m.

The Government should press the European Community to adopt a wider approach to the problems of the "less-favoured areas" and to support other rural activities as well as agriculture.

Housing investment programmes, allocations should be increased to district councils with large rural areas.

The Government's development and tourism agencies should be given more funds, using EEC sources where possible, for capital investment in industries, the report says. An increase of £10m to £15m a year would have a very significant effect.

(A Better Future for the Uplands Countryside Commission, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 3BA; £5.00).



Temple tribute: Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, standing in front of the Parthenon during yesterday's Minute's Silence for Peace, proposed by Greece and adopted by Unesco last year to be observed throughout the world.

Hotel given £187,000 for raid by security agents

From Tony Dubendin, Melbourne

The owners of Melbourne's Sheraton Hotel, scene of a bungled initiative raid by trainee members of the Australian Security Intelligence Service (Asis), last November, have accepted \$A300,000 (about £187,000) in compensation from the federal government.

The money is to cover physical damage to the hotel and to compensate staff. Mr Nick Rice, the hotel manager who was manhandled by the masked, armed agents whom he found smashing down a tenth floor bedroom door in the hotel, will receive a bigger amount of money than the other 13 staff involved.

Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign

Minister, who is responsible for ASIS, said yesterday that the total bill for the botched exercise at the hotel was likely to be nearly \$A750,000.

"It makes it not just an appalling frolic the Asis people were off on, but an extraordinarily costly one and inexcusable in every respect," he said.

Mr Hayden said that the total cost of the incident included the \$A300,000 compensation to the hotel and staff, legal proceedings to date of about \$A200,000 and similar costs associated with the inquiry into disciplinary action against those concerned. None of those involved in the incident has resigned.

British jet hijack ends in Taiwan

Taipei (AFP) - The passengers and crew of a Peking-bound British Airways jumbo jet flew back to Hongkong yesterday after their aircraft was hijacked here by a Chinese man who claimed to have explosives on board.

British Airways said here that all 338 passengers and 16 crew on board were unharmed and the hijacker was taken into custody soon after the Boeing 747 landed at Chiang Kai-shek airport at 2.49pm.

The man, identified as Liang Wei Chiang, aged 28, gave a note to the crew after take-off from Hongkong.

Nakasone plays the mediator in Asia with visit to China

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister of Japan, arrives in Peking today on his first official visit to China, bearing promises of 470,000 yen (£1,436m) in long-term economic aid, and of help for starving pandas, an animal which symbolizes friendly relations with Japan.

But he will also take up with his hosts the delicate diplomatic task of smoothing the way for closer "non-political" ties between China and South Korea, which have no official links. For a Japanese Prime Minister the role of go-between in relations involving the Korean peninsula and China is still a relatively new one.

Mr Nakasone and his Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, will be anxious to sound out Peking on allowing South Koreans to visit the graves of relatives in China. There are about 1.7 million Koreans - northern and southern - who have been living there since the Second World War.

Japan will also do the spadework for exchanges of Koreans and Chinese athletes, an important step in thawing relations, and towards Chinese participation in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

For Mr Nakasone, the three-day visit to China reflects his

long-standing desire for Japan to assert itself in international affairs, especially in Asia. Soviet relations will figure prominently in the talks. The visit can be seen as a measure of the success of his efforts to improve Japan's once strained bilateral relations with both China and South Korea.

Mr Nakasone arrives just four months after the Chinese Communist Party's Secretary-General, Mr Hu Yaobang, made his official visit to Japan, and just before President Reagan ventures to Peking for the first time.

Speculation has been rife that Japan may have some as yet undefined role to play in any scheme to bring forward talks on easing tensions in the Korean peninsula and in the region. These have been exacerbated by incidents such as the bombing in Rangoon last year, which killed four South Korean ministers, and narrowly missed President Chun Doo Hwan. North Korea was accused of plotting the attack.

With no outstanding bilateral issues, the visit should prove a pleasant affair for Mr Nakasone.

The 470,000 yen in financial assistance is earmarked for six large-scale development projects, over six or seven years.

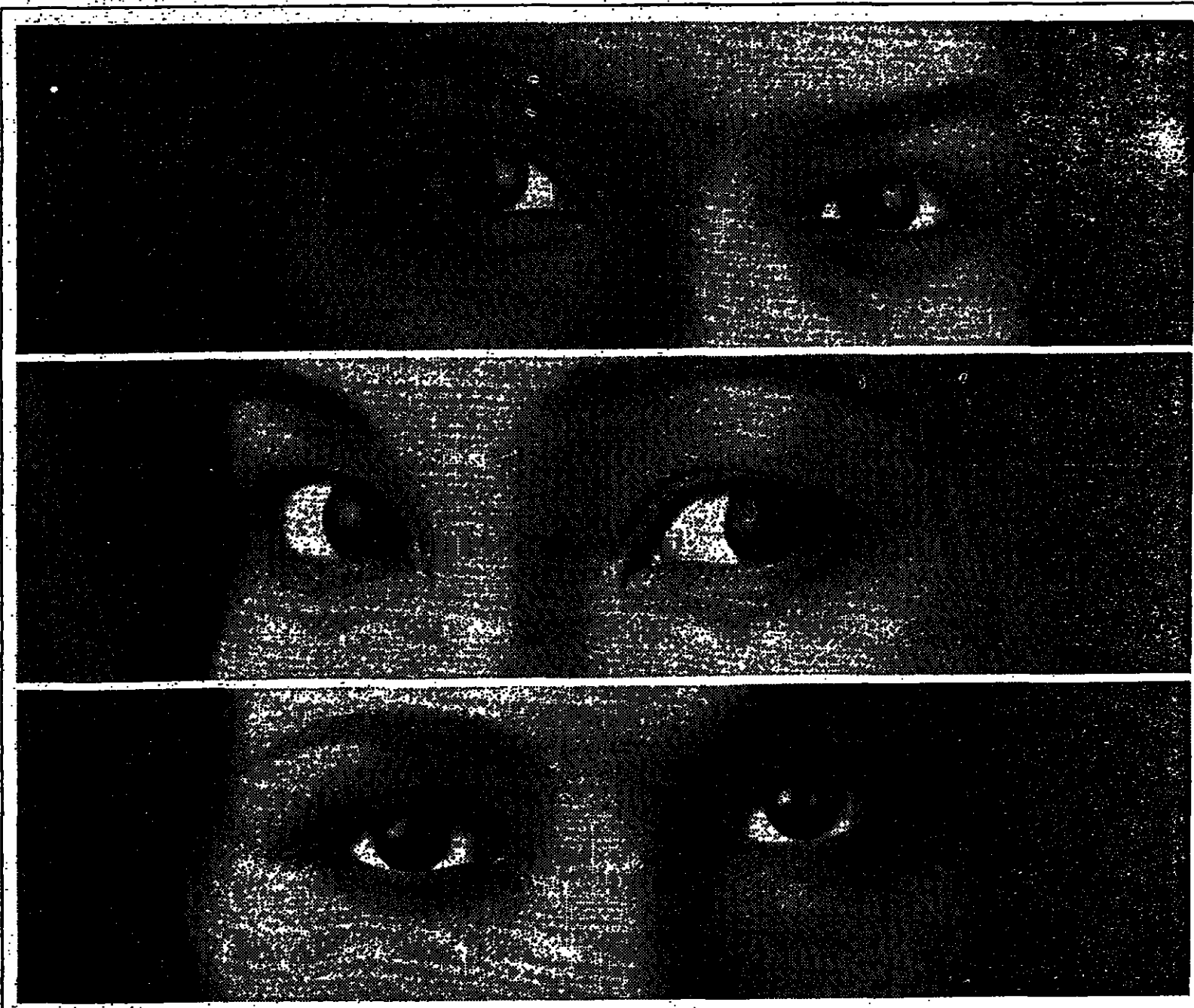
10 nations pledge to fight menace of acid rain

Ottawa (NYT) - Environment and health ministers from nine European countries and Canada signed an agreement on Wednesday committing their governments to reduce sulphur emissions by at least 30 per cent in the next decade to limit damage from acid rain.

The ceremony was the highlight of a two-day conference intended to generate the pressure of public opinion on both the United States and Britain to join what was referred to repeatedly as "the 30 per cent club".

All the countries taking part here - Austria, Canada, Denmark, West Germany, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland - had individually adopted the 30 per cent reductions. Some, such as Canada, have committed themselves to 50 per cent cutbacks on the 1980 levels of sulphur emissions.

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Amman's harder line gives unexpected boost to Shamir

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

At a time of deep Israeli difficulties in Lebanon, the recent headline statements of Jordan's King Hussein, and President Reagan's subsequent decision to cancel the proposed sale of 1,613 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to the Hashemite Kingdom have come as an unexpected bonus for the Government of Mr. Yitzhak Shamir.

Jerusalem officials yesterday praised the cancellation of the deal, noting that Israel was firmly opposed to American arms sales to any Arab country still in a state of war with Israel.

Unofficially there was resignation that the King might not succeed in securing a similar type of weapon from the French. "We have won the battle but perhaps not the war," said one source.

The delight in Israeli circles was matched by bitter disappointment in Amman, where the scrapping of the order was seen as placing a further strain on relations with the United States. But after the King's recent scathing attack on the American role in the Middle East, the cancellation had not been unexpected.

A statement released by the official news agency, Petra, said: "The Jordanian Government, after being informed of the decision, deeply regrets this step, which is considered detrimental to the kingdom's defence capability."

Even more than the cancellation of the sale of the shoulder-fired missiles, the King's recent statements, emphasizing that he would not negotiate with Israel even if there was a freeze on settlements in the occupied West Bank, played into the hands of the Likud coalition at a time when the air is thick with election talk.

Over the past 48 hours, a number of leading Likud members have pointed out gleefully that the King's remarks have dealt a severe blow to the so-called "Jordanian option", the main foreign-policy platform of the opposition Labour Party which, unlike the Government, is prepared to exchange territory in the West Bank for a peace treaty with Jordan.

Mitterrand basks in Reagan's praise

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan greeted President Mitterrand of France at the White House yesterday with words of praise for France's gendarme role in the Middle East and Africa, and a quotation from Victor Hugo that "it is through fraternity that liberty is saved".

In a wind-blown ceremony on the White House lawn, both Presidents sought to underline their historical ties and their shared ideals rather than the political and ideological differences between two of the West's foremost conservative and socialist leaders.

President Reagan lauded the constructive Global Dialogue by France and President Mitterrand's "courage and decisiveness in the face of international challenges". The bond between the two countries was deep and had stood the test of time, he added.

For his part, the French leader emphasized the need for the West to engage in dialogue with the Eastern block and proffer a helping hand to impoverished countries in the Third World. France, he declared, was a constant ally that could be counted on to bring "an original contribution to the search for world peace".

US and French officials emphasized that political and economic differences between the two countries would be pushed firmly into the background, as this was a state rather than an official visit by the French President - the first since President Giscard d'Estaing visited Washington in 1976.

They also pointed out that both leaders were anxious to emphasize points of agreement, particularly on matters such as East-West relations and the cohesion of the Atlantic alliance, rather than dwell on divisive issues such as agricultural exports, the US budget deficit, Lebanon and Central America.

Lorrymen win reforms

From Ian Murray, Brussels

French lorry drivers yesterday proved that strong-arm tactics can work in the European Community when EEC transport ministers pledged themselves to clearing away much of the red tape which causes delays at frontiers.

Every minister, including those of France and Italy, promised to have full frontier crossing facilities available 24 hours a day at crossing points from the start of next year. Italy, although still unable to implement this fully, said that it would honour the promise at the Mont Blanc tunnel and at

the Brenner Pass - the two places where angry drivers carried out a blockade last month.

The ministers also moved towards acceptance of a single administrative document for use by drivers - instead of the present system, which means that more than 100 different forms are in use.

There was also strong pressure on West Germany to drop its refusal to allow lorries to fuel, more than 200 litres of fuel in their tanks across its border without paying duty.



All change: Druze fighters meet a French officer after taking control of Beirut's Museum crossing point yesterday

Druze drive out pro-Libyan militia

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Druze fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party drove the small pro-Libyan Mouabitoun militia off the streets of west Beirut yesterday, awakening the city with gunfire two days after Lebanon's leaders declared a new ceasefire in their reconciliation meeting in Switzerland.

Eight people were reported killed and 17 wounded as the Druze guerrillas dislodged the Mouabitoun from a position it held at the Museum crossing point between east and west Beirut, from its headquarters on the main thoroughfare of

Corniche Mazraa, and from other posts in the Muslim western sector of the city.

A statement by the party of Mr. Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, said the Sunni Muslim Mouabitoun fighters had been extorting money from shops and restaurants and kidnapping Christian residents of west Beirut "in an accelerating campaign of lawlessness".

Mr. Ali Musawi, a spokesman for the party, also said the crackdown was ordered because the Mouabitoun failed to live up to the ceasefire declared on Tuesday by Lebanese leaders

meeting in Lausanne. The Mouabitoun issued no statement. Its Voice of Arab Lebanon radio went off the air during the fighting. It resumed broadcasting later in the day but presented only music.

The Mouabitoun advocates the Pan-Arab Socialism of the late Egyptian President Nasser and has received most of its financing from Libya. The Mouabitoun leader, Mr. Ibrahim Kileilat, was reported to be in Libya during yesterday's fighting.

The militia had been the largest Sunni Muslim fighting

force in west Beirut during the 1975-76 civil war. But it had close links to the Palestine Liberation Organization and lost much of its strength after the Israeli invasion in 1982 that drove the PLO from west Beirut.

President Gemayel returned to Lebanon during the morning fighting by the Druze and the Mouabitoun. He made no comment on the Lausanne conference or a subsequent visit to Paris as he arrived by helicopter at the Presidential palace in Baabda, five miles east of Beirut.

Passengers flee jet in flames

Calgary (AP) - An undetermined number of passengers were taken to hospital with minor injuries yesterday after a Pacific Western Airline Boeing 737 jetliner caught fire on take-off from Calgary international airport, the Canadian Press Agency reported.

Passengers scrambled as the burning plane, a shuttle flight bound for Edmonton, taxied to a halt.

Mustard gas burns crews

Copenhagen (AFP) - Five more Danish fishermen are being treated for serious burns caused by mustard gas dumped into the Baltic Sea after the Second World War. About 1,000 cases of cod had to be destroyed. Experts say poison is now oozing out of its broken containers and spreading in the form of clumps.

Hoare transfer

Johannesburg (AFP) - Colonel Hoare, the jailed mercenary leader, is to be transferred from prison in Pretoria to Pietermaritzburg on humanitarian grounds, legal sources said. He is 65 and said to be in bad health. His wife recently underwent an open heart operation.

China accused

Paris (AFP) - More than 10,000 common-law criminals were executed in China between August and November last year in the crackdown on crime, a group of China experts told a press conference here. They condemned the physical violence to which prisoners were subjected.

Tunisian jailed

Tunis (Reuters) - Bechir Essid, leader of the Arab National Assembly Movement, a Pro-Libyan opposition group, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for defaming President Bourguiba in his criticism of the Government's response to last January's "bread riots". His trial was the first of an opposition figure since the riots.

Sole candidate

Nairobi - The interim President of Tanzania, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, is touring the island addressing political meetings in advance of the presidential election in mid-April. As the only candidate, he is endorsed by the ruling Tanzanian Revolutionary Party.

Spying arrest

Karlsruhe (AFP) - The West German police arrested an unidentified American civilian employee of US forces in Giessen, Hesse, allegedly for spying for East Germany. Federal prosecutors here said. His arrest followed the arrest of a West German in the United States on suspicion of being an East German spy.

Togo sex ban

Lomé (AFP) - The Togo Cabinet, faced with a growing number of teenage pregnancies, has passed a law prohibiting sexual relations with a schoolgirl. The Government has been running a campaign to make the young aware of the risks.

Muti takes Milan by storm

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Riccardo Muti has been chosen as the next principal conductor at La Scala, widely taken to be added proof that the fortunes of the country most revered operatic temple are on an upswing.

The committee called to make the final decision had a luxurious choice before it. Its members say that the final candidates apart from comparatively youthful Muti, were Loris Maestri, who successfully opened the current Milan season with *Turandot* and Claudio Abbado, the theatre's present principal conductor.

Muti is much less known at La Scala than Abbado, whose reign as musical director, and from 1977 to 1979 artistic director as well, now draws towards its end.

According to well-placed observers, Abbado received only one vote in the committee, and for those intrigued by the political inspiration of Italian musical decision, Muti was said to have been backed by the Christian Democrats. Abbado's one supporter was a Communist.

The committee, nevertheless, expressed the intention of seeking ways of assuring continued collaboration on the part of Abbado, even if the main post will no longer be his. Muti is said to have been the orchestra's preference, despite his legendary rigour and discipline.

Muti, who is 42, was brought brought up and trained in the



Riccardo Muti: Cold and self-disciplined

expansive and anarchic atmosphere of Naples, but he is in no way the stereotype image of a young southerner, except in looks.

He is sometimes compared in his musical outlook with Toscanini, who remains the most august of the phantoms of the Milan opera. But at least one experienced musician maintains that Muti is even colder and more disciplined than that archetype of musical autocrats.

It happened to be in Naples on the day decision was taken at La Scala, and by chance was talking to Vincenzo Vitale, the great Neapolitan piano teacher who numbered Muti among his pupils.

He regards Muti as the most talented person he trained in 50 years of teaching, and no mean

autocrat himself in his younger days, recalls with some awe the self-discipline of Muti and the punctiliousness with which he impresses his requirement on his orchestra.

Muti was principal conductor of the Florence Maggio Musicale until 1981. During his years there it looked as if he would have as little contact with the Milan theatre as his rival, Abbado, would have in Florence.

Muti has now taken the bastion by storm after relatively few engagements at La Scala. He is expected to take up his duties in 1986 and it appears that he is willing to spend between five and six months a year with the La Scala orchestra.

According to plans for the 1985 season Abbado is due to conduct five operas, including the opening *Carmen*, and Muti none. Both will conduct a *Macbeth* in the course of the season. Abbado at La Scala, while Muti's *Macbeth* will open the new season at the San Carlo in Naples.

This engagement, which now looks more foresighted than before, was a clever move by the San Carlo's comparatively new general administrator, Francesco Canessa, who has made the exhilarating jump from being a highly respected music critic.

The fact that Muti is not due to conduct next year at La Scala is presumably an additional reason why the Milan house wants to be sure of Abbado's services.

Hongkong and China visit for Howe

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit China and Hongkong in the third week of April, he announced in the Commons yesterday.

The future of Hongkong will be the predominant subject in talks he will have with Mr. Wu Xueqian, China's Foreign Minister, while his stay in the British colony will enable him to have extensive consultations with the local officials.

Negotiations between Britain and China over the ownership and administration of Hongkong after Britain's lease on the New Territories expires in 1997, have continued for 18 months.

Members of Hongkong's executive council, in effect the colony's Cabinet, are due in London on April 4 and 5 for their third round of consultations with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and her ministers since last July.

The last round of negotiations took place on March 16 and 17 and the next will be on March 26-27.

Fire spares top files at Unesco

From Diana Geddes, Paris

No confidential documents or important files were destroyed in the fire which broke out on Wednesday evening in one of the archive rooms of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, it was revealed yesterday.

The fire, which reached the seventh floor on the building's right wing before being controlled after an hour and a half by more than 200 firemen, destroyed or damaged more than 100 offices. Three other fires which broke out later in the evening in other parts of the building were quickly put out. The cost of repairs has been estimated at nearly £25m.

Police, who have no doubt the fires were started deliberately, found piles of screwed-up paper ready for lighting in several offices, and an empty plastic petrol container.

Unions defy Alfonsin on pay limit

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

The Argentine General Confederation of Labour (CGT) has rejected the minimum wage set by the Government and given a warning that the country is on the verge of an "explosion of a social crisis with unpredictable consequences".

The trade union challenge to the Government's wage policy came as Radical Party youth factions vied for control of the mass rally due to be held tonight in the Plaza de Mayo opposite Government House in celebration of the first 100 days in office of the Government of President Raúl Alfonsín, of the Radical Party.

The CGT, in a statement, flatly rejected the Government's set minimum wage of 3,700 pesos (£50).

Commentary



Geoffrey Howe

Mr. Walter Mondale is the Rab Butler of American politics - a politician at his best in office, a man who knows how the wheels of government turn, shrewd and experienced in the art of managing his party, who none the less finds it difficult to arouse excitement among the public at large.

It is possible that Mr. Mondale may become president, whereas Butler failed to become Prime Minister. Yet Mr. Mondale would in fact be more suited to a parliamentary system in which the capacity to win the respect of colleagues and to work one's way up in the party count for so much more than in the intensely personal process of presidential politics.

Like Butler, he looked the natural heir to his party's leadership yet ran into difficulties when he tried to establish that claim. Six weeks ago it would have seemed extraordinary that a man who should be beaming with delight at a relatively narrow victory in such a favourable state for him as Illinois, Tuesday night was a measure of how badly his campaign had come unstuck before then.

He has now passed the resilience test. This is a campaign manned by some of the toughest professionals in American politics which is not going to fold up under the pressure of a few early primary defeats.

Climax of Illinois campaign

Listening to Mr. Mondale in a joint debate with the Democratic rival at the climax of the Illinois campaign on Sunday evening, it was easy to appreciate why he has been regarded as a natural heir to the party leadership. The Rev. Jesse Jackson was the wittest. Senator Gary Hart had the sharpest debating style, but the longer the debate went on the more Mr. Mondale looked to be the senior partner, experienced and well informed.

Experienced: the word pervades the Mondale campaign. It is both his greatest strength and one of his principal weaknesses. While Senator Hart was improvising the freshness of his approach throughout the debate, Mr. Mondale was referring to his record, his commitment and his experience.

This reinforced the impression that he is peddling the policies of yesterday. But experience should be an important consideration for those who see elections as essentially a preliminary to government. It is less relevant for those who regard elections as one of the more traditional forms of spectator sport. There is a relentless restlessness in the American psyche at the moment, defying the politicians to capture and hold its imagination.

Weakness of his strength

Experience defines a person who has been around a while, somebody who has been around a while lacks novelty and novelty is prized highly by those whose attention is fickle. Mr. Mondale is having to contend not only with his rivals but also with this mood of the American public.

There is another respect in which Mr. Mondale suffers from the weakness of his strength. The way in which he has secured the support of the interest groups - the trade unions, the teachers' organizations and others - it is a remarkable and in its way a smart political operation. I believe it was an important factor in his Illinois victory.

It may help him to win the Democratic nomination and the language of necessity is compelling in American politics. "I wish someone would tell me," remarked one of the Mondale team in exasperation a little while ago, "how it is possible to govern this country without getting elected first?"

Yet Mr. Mondale is paying a heavy price for this support in the widespread belief that he has sold out to the interest groups.

We shall never know how far he has really restricted his freedom of manoeuvre unless he becomes President.

The surprises there have already been this year should be a warning against dogmatic predictions. He must once again be the favourite for Democratic nomination. If President Reagan stumbles, Mr. Mondale may well be the beneficiary. But he does not look likely to seize the presidency through his own initiative and popular appeal - a widely shared impression which may yet delay him the nomination. Like Rab Butler, he has the air of a man of parts who will somehow quite make it.

Prince gets taste of Zambian sweet life

From Michael Hornsby, Mazabaka, Zambia

Prince Charles yesterday visited a sugar cane growing project near here, where it is hoped that 300 Zambian smallholders will be settled eventually on about 1,900 hectares of land.

The scheme is being managed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation, of which the Prince is a director, in collaboration with the Zambian Government.

Accompanied by Lord Kintersley, chairman of the CDC, the Prince was taken to a hilltop from which he looked down on to a bright green expanse of cane fields which, he was assured, had been a dustbowl only three years ago.

Unfortunately the scheme is running slightly behind schedule, and only eight smallholders have very recently been installed. The goal is that each of the 300 should eventually have an irrigated plot of four hectares plus a house and small vegetable garden.

The sugar cane they grow will be sent for processing to a mill nearby on the Nakambala estate of the Zambian Sugar Company, in which Tate and Lyle is a major shareholder.

It is hoped the scheme will



Down to earth: Mr. Greg Wass, in a protective space suit, taking a walk with his wife, Heather, in Glen Llanes, New South Wales. He is allergic to most chemicals.

Two are charged with 'Hitler Diaries' hoax

Hamburg (AP) - The Hamburg prosecutor filed fraud charges on Tuesday against two Germans suspected of selling the bogus *Hitler Diaries* to *Stern* magazine, a spokesman said yesterday.

Konrad Kujawa, a dealer in Nazi artefacts, and Gerd Heidemann, a former *Stern* reporter, were formally charged with staging the elaborate hoax to obtain DM9.34m (£2.3m) from the magazine's owner, Gruner-Jahr Publishers.

The case is the biggest literary fraud on record. Herr Kujawa, aged 45, and Herr Heidemann, aged 52, were taken into investigative custody last May in Hamburg after West German experts deter-

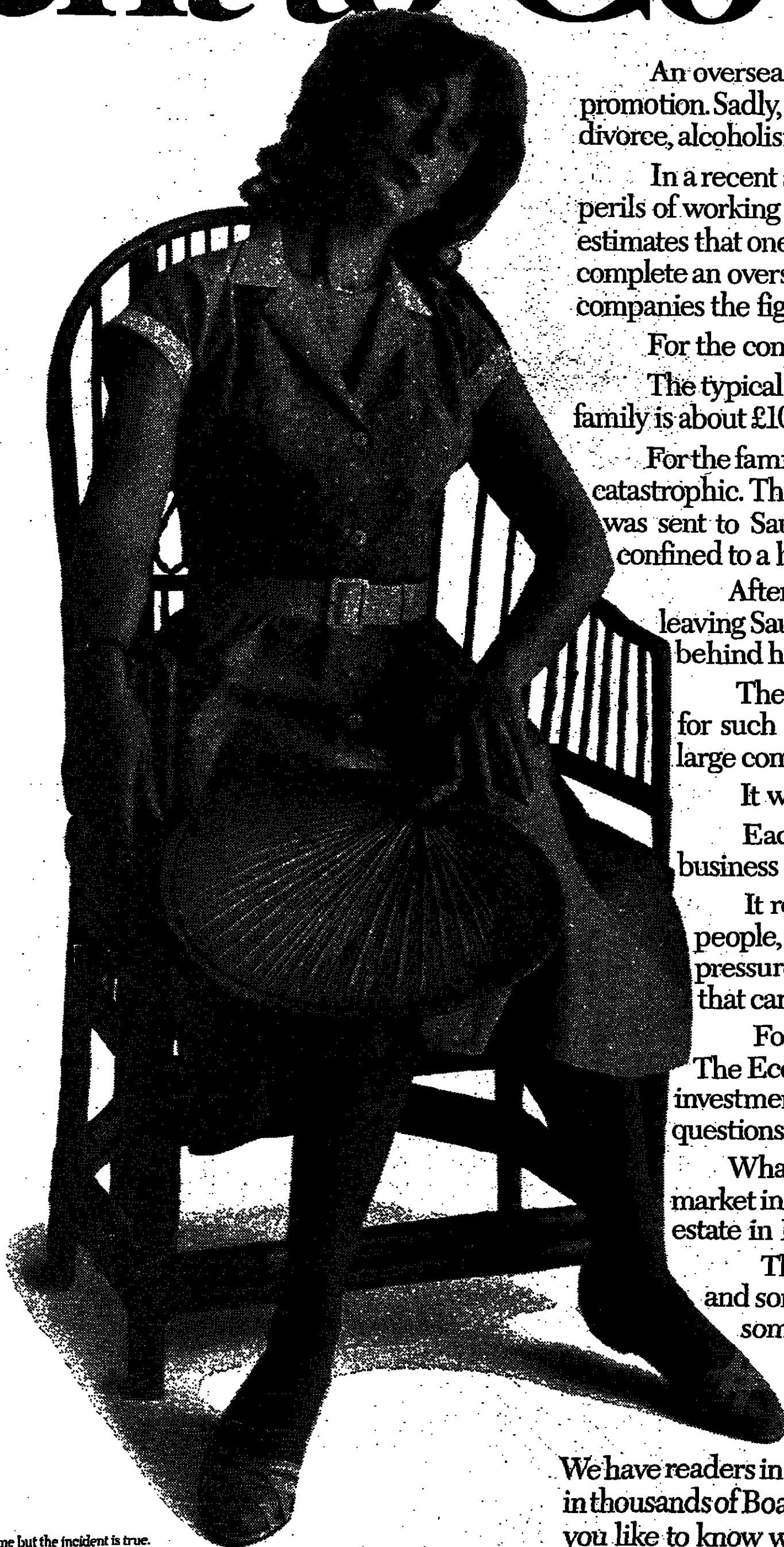
mined that the 62-volume set of journals acquired by *Stern* were fake.

The weekly published several instalments of the purported diaries last year before the hoax was revealed by government investigators on May 6. The magazine also sold rights to foreign publications, which reproduced excerpts.

The prosecutor's spokesman said Herr Kujawa was charged with a "hoaxing" at least DM1.57. Herr Heidemann was charged with keeping at least DM1.72m for himself. None of the cash has been recovered.

The magazine's circulation has fallen and there have been several changes in the senior editorial posts.

Mr. Foster was posted to Jeddah. His wife was sent to Coventry.



An overseas posting is often seen as a promotion. Sadly, in many cases, it promotes only stress, divorce, alcoholism and breakdown.

In a recent article, *The Economist* looked at the perils of working abroad. One American survey estimates that one in three American managers fail to complete an overseas tour of duty. Even for European companies the figure is one in seven.

For the company, such failures are expensive.

The typical cost of relocating a manager and his family is about £100,000.

For the family, the price can be even more catastrophic. The wife of one British manager who was sent to Saudi Arabia found herself "virtually confined to a hotel bedroom."

After four months of loneliness she quit, leaving Saudi, her husband and her marriage behind her.

The Economist analysed the reasons for such failures and explained what some large companies are doing to prevent them.

It was an article you should have read.

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What's the link between the soft-drinks market in America and the price of real-estate in Hawaii?

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The Economist

Crime wave in Spain forces Cabinet rethink on reforms

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Government, moved by a popular outcry against a growing crime wave, has decided to toughen its stand and reconsider liberal reforms outlined in its original 1982 election programme.

A rash of armed robberies in the big cities during recent weeks with the murder of several shopkeepers, particularly in the Basque country, has forced the Government to reconsider its policy. The Cabinet meeting, Wednesday, was devoted to discussing the crime wave. More important, perhaps, has been the growing visible social effects of drug addiction among the young. A young woman was yesterday the tenth victim to be found dead from drugs in Madrid this year.

As Señor José Barriónuevo, the Interior Minister, said: "This Government is prepared to rectify its mistakes." His words were immediately greeted by a delighted "we told you so" from the right wing Opposition.

The detailed changes could not be settled at one Cabinet meeting, however, and another is to be held soon, for not all the ministers agree with Señor Barriónuevo, including Señor Fernando Ledesma, the Justice Minister, father of the original reforms.

Sources at his ministry

yesterday went on record dissociating Señor Ledesma from decisions which had been taken by Señor Barriónuevo at a meeting with top police chiefs even before Wednesday's Cabinet meeting.

The two ministers differ on two essential points. One is ending the toleration of soft drugs, with no prosecutions, and the second is the revision of legal reforms last year which allowed those awaiting trial to obtain bail if they had been detained for more than certain periods.

Señor Ledesma's reforming spirit has been answered by cold statistics which show that, out of 5,500 accused who were released temporarily after May of last year, no fewer than 2,400 had been picked up again by the police for alleged fresh offences by last month.

The public has become alarmed by this return of criminals to the streets, overlooking the basic problem of the chronic slowness of Spanish magistrates to dispense justice.

The Government feels it has to do something for in both Madrid and Barcelona politically influential shopkeepers' organizations have arranged well-backed demonstrations against the crime wave.

Frontier blockade ends

Hendaye (AP) - The first of about 500 lorries that have been blocking three crossing points on the Franco-Spanish border for four days began leaving yesterday after negotiations aimed at protecting French drivers in Spain.

According to French officials, Spain has offered to pay indemnities for the 21 French lorries Spanish fishermen have

set on fire. The officials said the Civil Guard will provide security for future convoys in north-west Spain instead of local police.

The blocking of the highway crossings began on Monday to protest against the burning of lorries by fishermen made angry by the French naval attack on two Spanish boats fishing illegally in the Bay of Biscay.



Lennon tribute: Yoko Ono in Central Park, New York, yesterday as work began on a garden in memory of her husband John Lennon, the former Beatle. The garden is called Strawberry Fields, after one of the group's songs.

300 die in Indian port massacre

Delhi (AFP) - Police in the port of Paradip killed more than 100 people and set some 3,000 huts ablaze on Monday in a rampage sparked off by the death of four colleagues during India's dock strike, opposition politicians said yesterday.

The *Hindustan Times*, which sent a correspondent to the scene, said that more than 300 people were killed and that their bodies were thrown into the sea or the flames of their burning houses in the east coast city, one of 10 ports paralysed by the week-long strike.

"Charred bodies, half-burnt cattle carcasses, twisted utensils and kerosene tins, grinding mortars and other household bric-a-brac and a miles-long

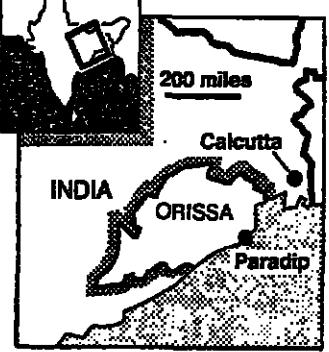
stretch of ash and burnt soil are among the reminders of Monday's carnage," the paper said.

The Press Trust of India quoted Mrs Nandini Satpathy, head of a delegation of

communist and conservative Members of Parliament who toured Paradip, as saying that many bodies were loaded on to lorries and taken outside the city.

One woman described how her husband was shot by police and then thrown alive into the flaming ruins of his house, according to Mrs Satpathy after she had toured the now-empty streets of Paradip with her 13-member delegation.

There was no official confirmation of the reports. Paradip authorities had said earlier that Monday's clashes involving union and non-union dock workers and police had left eight people dead, including four policemen.



US anxieties in El Salvador

Congress stonewalls on aid for army until after election

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan wants to give an immediate \$94m (£64.4m) to strengthen the Salvadoran army. He really means immediate - he would have liked to sign the cheque before the elections on Sunday.

The Army is not winning the guerrilla war in El Salvador. America's economic and military aid continues to escalate. Sunday's presidential elections will not bring peace. The grip of poverty is tightening. The Administration is increasingly isolated by world opinion in its drive for greater political, economic and military entanglement.

It is against that setting that congressional sympathy for what President Reagan is doing in El Salvador in particular, and Central America in general, has grown more and more tepid. In Congress there seems to be particular impatience with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who leads the Administration's rhetoric about the "darkening shadow of communism in Central America".

Still the rhetoric flows. He said a few days ago that El Salvador could not wait for more military aid until June,

which is the earliest date that Congress is due to vote on further funds for El Salvador.

That is why President Reagan is seeking an immediate emergency package. To his chagrin, Congress is determined not to give him a penny until the outcome of the election is clear.

Mr Shultz summoned a press conference on Tuesday to state indignantly: "To delay these funds is to hinder prospects for peace and negotiations, to prolong suffering and strengthen the hand of our adversaries".

President Reagan has been no less adamant. He said 12 days ago that El Salvador was running out of ammunition and other supplies, and would be unable to hold secure elections unless his request for emergency aid was approved quickly.

After Mr Shultz's public appeal to Congress on Tuesday, opponents of emergency aid to El Salvador fanned out quickly across Capitol Hill. Their central argument is that the Administration's real fear is not that vital military supplies will run out in El Salvador; it is that, if the extreme right wins the presidential election, there will be serious pressure for a complete end to American military aid.



Oiling a faulty voting machine

From John Carlin, San Salvador

In February last year President Reagan's special envoy to Central America, Mr Richard Stone, told the provisional Salvadoran President, Señor Alvaro Magaña, that Mr Reagan was seeking a prompt election in El Salvador to alleviate "domestic problems" with the US Congress.

According to a Christian Democrat party member at the meeting, Mr Stone told Señor Magaña: "You hold the elections before Christmas 1983 and we'll come up with the money tomorrow."

Señor Magaña announced elections for November last year, but a series of problems delayed them until this Sunday. The delay notwithstanding, the US is paying nearly \$10m (£6.6m). The American aim is to bolster the Salvadoran electoral system, which is traditionally fragile, characterized by large-scale fraud.

The US money comes from Agency for International Development (AID) funds, which are paying an additional \$1.6m for a US accounting firm to supervise the compiling of the first Salvadoran electoral register, besides ensuring a clean count on polling day.

AID paid for a computer system to perform the two tasks and even paid for 29 tons of Plexiglass to make 6,912 ballot boxes. "This is the first time we've ever done anything like this," said a perplexed AID official.

Clearly, President Reagan is hoping that the 350 journalists and the observers from at least

20 countries, Britain included, will go away after the elections, convinced of the country's impeccable democratic credentials and thus persuade the world, with Congress uppermost, that the Salvadoran system is worth supporting and that it is worth pumping in more US military aid to defeat the guerrillas.

To make the electoral register, on which most of the US money will be spent, the Central Election Council (CEE), organizing the election mechanics, makes a list of identity cards, which all Salvadorans must carry.

To avoid double voting or, even, "dead voting", the US-donated computer was to have done "a purification" of identity cards, ensuring that each Salvadoran over 18 would have his or her name, just once, in a national electoral register.

But, through excessive haste or inability to grapple with



Señor Magaña: Forced to delay the poll.

computer technology, tens of thousands of phantom voters remain on the register, now declared by the CCE to be complete.

The final, supposedly "purified" register contains about 2.5 million names, 700,000 more than the total electorate at the last national poll, in March 1982. The CCE chairman recently admitted that about 25 per cent of votes cast in 1982 had been fraudulent, mainly as a result of "disorganization" in monitoring voters.

Another conundrum is why there will be 6,912 ballot boxes, each supposed to contain 500 ballot papers - 6,912 multiplied by 500 is 3,456,000, nearly a million more than the official number of voters.

A US official involved with the build-up to the election said there is "a hell of a lot of possibility of fraud, especially in the countryside."

Technicalities apart - which, it is known, political parties have studied closely for fraud opportunities - terror and intimidation have remained features of the poll.

Out of an awareness of Washington's aid conditions, death-squad killings and politically-inspired "disappearances" have been more discreet than two years ago.

The American writer Joan Didion said in her book *Salvador* that one great error of her country's government was "to imagine that the word 'elections' have stable meanings north and south", in El Salvador and in the United States.

Journalist pardoned in Madrid

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Señor Javier Vinander, a journalist, has been pardoned by the Spanish Government for an act of "professional negligence", for which he was sentenced to a seven-year prison term in 1981.

Soon after his trial he went into exile, and returned here this year only after receiving assurances from the Government that he would be pardoned.

Señor Vinander's conviction was based on an article in the magazine *Interviú* in which he named several police informers in the north, two of whom were assassinated soon afterwards by the Basque terrorist organization ETA. In its verdict the court said he was partially responsible for the terrorist murders.

His pardon was granted at a regular Cabinet meeting here on Wednesday and he was released later that day from Madrid's Carabanchel prison.

Kenya MP repeats deaths claim

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

A Kenyan MP who last month said 300 members of the Somali tribe had died, after being rounded up by security forces at Wajir, north-east Kenya, has repeated his claim in Parliament here.

He told the House during a debate that thousands of Somalis were rounded up and held in a makeshift enclosure for several days without food or water, and that many were shot or beaten to death.

The incident allegedly happened in mid-February, but the Kenyan Government has not yet commented on the claims of Mr Ahmed Khalif, MP for Wajir West. He called for a full inquiry, saying the soldiers were encouraged to ill-treat the Somalis, and he produced photographs showing a pile of naked bodies.

French rights haunt Canada contest

From John Best, Ottawa

The issue of minority French-language rights, never far beneath the surface of Canadian politics, has burst upon the campaign for leadership of the governing Liberal Party and the job of Prime Minister.

A single utterance by Mr John Turner, the leading contender for the offices now held by Mr Pierre Trudeau, started it all.

At a press conference last Friday, Mr Turner was asked to state his position on French-language rights in the province of Manitoba. He replied that the solution to that problem would have to be provincial. Then he added: "And I would hope that it would be resolved by the political process and not by the judicial process."

The statement caused an immediate sensation. The leader of the Progressive Conservative opposition, Mr Brian Mulroney - who himself will be aspiring to become Prime Minister in the federal election expected later this year - lost no time in accusing Mr Turner of turning his back on French-speaking Manitobans.

Only a few weeks ago, the New Democratic Party Government of Manitoba failed in an attempt to have French and English made constitutionally entrenched, official languages of that western province.

The official Conservative opposition, responding to pressures from the heavily-preponderant English-speaking population, killed the move by boycotting the provincial legislature and preventing the enabling legislation from coming to a vote.

The federal Government of Mr Trudeau, which long ago made English and French the official languages of Canada, did what it could to save the Manitoba legislation by sponsoring two House of Commons resolutions supporting the initiative, and these sailed through with all-party support. However, the effort was in vain. Now the federal Government is planning a new initiative: referring the whole matter to the Supreme Court of Canada through a series of questions designed to establish once and for all that bilingualism in

Manitoba flows constitutionally from the 1870 terms of its Union with Canada, which recognized French and English as the languages of Manitoba's legislature and courts.

The provision has been honoured more in the breach than in the observance practically ever since 1870 as Manitoba's once considerable French-speaking population has dwindled in comparison with other ethnic groups.

Mr Turner, a former federal Cabinet minister who has spent the last eight years practising law in Toronto, is widely believed to have stumbled on the language issue.

His press conference statement, later reiterated in a television interview, has given new heart to his four opponents for the Liberal leadership, most of whom had had few hopes of defeating him but now feel that he is assailable.

The most obvious potential beneficiary is Mr Jean Chrétien, the Minister of Energy and Resources and the only French-speaking candidate to enter the leadership race so far. Mr Chrétien is trying to overcome a liability attaching to the fact that the Liberals have traditionally chosen alternately English-Canadians and French-Canadians as their leader and Mr Trudeau is a French-Canadian.

The French-speaking populations of all three areas - Manitoba, Yukon and Northwest Territories - are well under 10 per cent but they are a force to be reckoned with because of the sentiments which their treatment invariably evoke in politically powerful Quebec.



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Can art and money ever mix?

Mr Wrong runs the colossal Barbican Centre in the City of London, a £200m monument to the uneasy relations between culture and finance in Britain, argues Bryan Appleyard in a new book. When the arts business has never been richer why all the complaints about cuts?

Henry Wrong strolls round the Barbican Centre, an ambiguous smile on his face. As far as the punters are concerned, the administrator is smiling, so all is well; employees are more likely to detect the pained fixedness of his expression, a certain tightness around the jaw line. Wrong holds his dinosaur of an arts centre together with facial muscle tone.

He eats with some distaste in the restaurant when he has no choice and makes lightning security checks in the small hours of the morning, descending from his Barbican pied-à-terre with fastidious wrath. He makes his entry into the vast set, with its chandelier, an object expressive of nothing so much as the cost of light fittings these days, its bush-hammered concrete sporadically concealed by large orange sheets of plywood and its baffling "levels" as opposed to floors or storeys. The light is low and the carpets thick. You might be in the foyer of an American bank.

It is a fitting monument for the Canadian Mr Wrong to wander through in the small hours - a monument to all the dogged uncertainties that have characterized Britain's post-war public funding of the arts. It is perhaps embarrassing that it has clearly been built to last five hundred years - presumably to become one day, a symbolic relic to be deciphered by amused historians.

They will find it a rich source of information about our age, for at the Barbican the equation between art and money has achieved a weird kind of formal perfection. To begin with, it is in the City, the money-making centre of the nation. If one locality might reasonably have been expected to be free from the lure of post-war welfareism, this was it. But first the City decided it needed people living there; then it decided they needed some kind of recreational facility; and finally it found, to its amazement, that it needed a £200m international arts centre.

It was an exquisite piece of non-planning, which occurred solely because of the local government anomaly that retains the medieval identity of the City and gives it a ratable value of breathtaking size. As a result, of course, the nation finds itself with an enormous sum of money to spend on the arts but discovers that it can be spent only within a particular square mile of London in which there is absolutely no tradition of artistic activity.

The organic growth of London has decreed that entertainment should be in the West End and

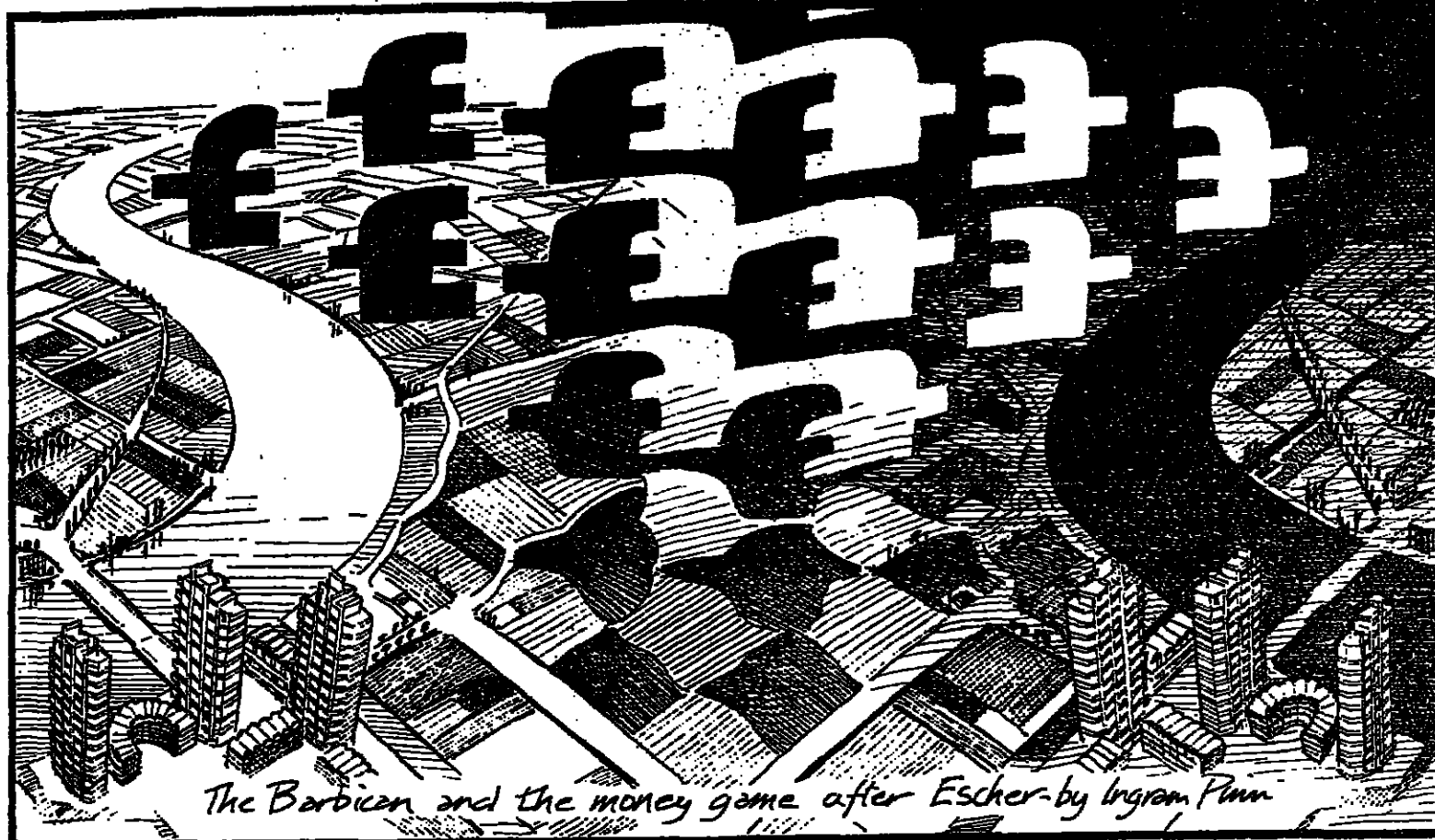
commerce in the East, but the organism reckoned without the sudden onset of a mania within the City Corporation to make themselves a real rounded city. The one thing they do inordinately well is to make money, so perhaps it was merely a subconscious longing for balance which drove them to the arts, which can always lose it with such style. Wrong is a pragmatist who builds and runs arts centres. Wider qualms are not his stock in trade. He is our only representative of that latter-day breed of global, cultivated autocrats who run the prestige subsidized centres around the world. He is managing to keep afloat a centre which is appallingly expensive to run and which houses the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra. Relations with the former have been reasonable but for its tendency to lapse into a habitual arrogance, and with the latter terrible owing to its distinctly unpredictable management style.

Patronage imposes restrictions

The theatre seems to be all right, having at least been given an auditorium comparable with that of the National. The record of the art gallery has been unimpressive, and the concert hall has created a massive over-capacity in the serious music business in London.

But the real point is that not one of these amenities is necessary. They arose from a liberal itch to do something: in the event, to build an arts centre in the wrong place.

It is a monument to the way in which money invested in the arts in Britain tends to end up in the wrong place and in the wrong form - as capital rather than revenue. This is particularly tragic in view of the fact that the arts in this country are enjoying a period of unprecedented wealth. For a start, they now occupy luxurious new buildings like the Barbican, the physical realizations of the liberal impulse. Less obviously, they can also lay claim to vast and constantly marketed capital resources resulting from the value added to paintings and sculptures by the operations of the expanded international art market. They are just beginning to tap the revenue available from the rapidly growing world television industry. They can logically expect to benefit to some extent from the generally increased leisure time available to the population as a result of



The Barbican and the money game after Escher by Ingram Penn

technological advances. Orchestras are supported by recording and film work. Opera and theatre are beginning to exploit video as well as broadcast television.

Private corporations are steadily beginning to discern some merit in artistic patronage. But money and art have never coexisted easily. There are two sources of cash, the market and patronage, yet neither produces simple solutions. In the case of the market Raymond Williams has identified in *Culture and Society* the acute pressure which immediately arose when an affluent middle class became interested in culture during the industrial revolution. It began to buy literature and to aspire, a process spectacularly accelerated, as we have seen, two hundred years later. But "the free play of genius found it increasingly difficult to consort with the free play of the market" writes Williams. In other words, the obligation to sell seemed to taint the obligation to express. Patronage, on the other hand, appears to take it as read that art has an intrinsic and unquestionable value and it is made available to cushion the artist against the full impact of the free market. Unfortunately, patronage imposes its own restrictions: there are only certain types of sculpture that can be placed in churches or which IBM will tolerate. When it comes to government patronage the problems become mind-bogglingly complex and produce ever more fraught extrusions of logic and clumsy moral distinctions. Money and the arts now live in a variety of uneasy partnerships, neither really acknowledging the scale of the uncertainties underlying their relationship. The arts industry has sustained explosive growth over the past 40 years.

This growth has both produced and been confronted by a variety of recent problems. Most obviously it has run into the malign combination of recession and a government whose primary policy decision will restrict growth in public spending for the foreseeable future. Lord Goodman's "widespread feeling" that a right to public cash existed clearly does not extend to all the ranks of the modern Tory Party.

In October 1982 the House of Commons Select Committee report *Public and Private Funding of the Arts* was published. "First the report endorsed the central position of the arts in national life - so far great news for the Arts Council. It then went on to recommend significant decentralization of power and substantial organizational changes which would, if fully implemented, massively reduce the workload of the inhabitants of 105 Piccadilly. The report has proved increasingly influential.

Fringe companies favoured

Then came Clive Priestley's scrutiny of the affairs of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company. This was ordered by the Prime Minister as the price to be paid for the additional £5m one-off payment to the arts made in 1983-4. In the event Priestley was almost embarrassingly nice to both companies. Criticisms were minor, comments no more scathing than scrutiny of any organization would be bound to provoke. Overwhelmingly the conclusion was that both needed more money. In addition Priestley suggested direct funding from

the government, bypassing the Arts Council.

The implications are clear enough. In waking up to the size and significance of the arts industry, the Government had also become alert to the fact that its prime means of intervention and involvement in that industry was via a somewhat eccentric organization, which seemed to involve itself in highly publicized rows with appalling regularity.

Just as the Arts Council was winning its battle to convince the Government that it was a major and profitable industry, sections of the Government were forming the view that the industry was too major for the Arts Council.

The potential for change arising from this Government's awakening is enormous. The old Goodman defence of the Arts Council is based in its role as an extra-government body which neutralizes the cash, strips it of any possible political clothing. This precious arms-length principle is fiercely defended as the organizational soul of the council, which justifies its existence as the launderer of money and preserves it from nasty continental excesses of the Ministry of Culture variety.

History, however, can be rewritten. Perhaps the arms-length principle was born not of an idealistic urge to protect the freedom of the arts but of the continuing squeamishness in government circles over subsidies for the performing arts. In 1945 such subsidy still had a slightly improper feel to it. Thus the portion of the Arts Council's defence that it is based on its traditions is being questioned.

In most other areas its defences look similarly weak, primarily because of its disjointed history. Also in 1945 Keynes suggested that public

money need concern itself only with the bricks and mortar of the arts: audiences and artists would look after the rest. In other words, provide the capital and the revenue will roll in. In effect, his advice was followed. It was a miscalculation, based on a belief in the efficiencies of scale.

Simultaneously the major national companies were being established and knitted into the fabric of government funding. The policy was to proceed logically and smoothly, in best Wilsonian order.

In fact, the goals set were unattainable at the levels of funding then current and completely out of the question once growth had stopped. The legacy of those unrealistic aims is an ill-structured subsidized sector with little semblance of regional commitment. There is a wild imbalance in favour of London and a grotesquely assorted rag-bag of fringe and ultra-fringe companies on the Arts Council's client list.

This does not exactly leave the council in a position of strength from which to defend its traditions from the inroads of the Priestleys and select committees of the world.

Of course, rows over relative levels of funding have always incorporated all the other big grievances of British life - class, the regions versus London, left versus right and so on. These have an unnerving habit of escalating at once into conflicts on the broadest scale, not least because of the heavily political emphasis placed on art by so many council clients. And it is in this context that the other half of government policy, the encouragement of commercial sponsorship, also runs into trouble.

Commercial sponsorship is the nearest this Government can get to "privatization" of the arts

that will certainly never pay their way in a real free market.

Yet, ideologically acceptable as tax incentives for private sponsorship would be, that does not look like Lord Gowrie's most probable route. Instead, the government is likely to move down and left to deal with strategy, and the broad level of allocation towards a high level of devotion to the regional arts associations, and the Arts Council may be slimmed.

This may actually produce more money for the arts, as experience in other countries has shown that in the right circumstances greater local involvement has produced greater willingness to subsidize.

But in the real capitalist world developments have occurred which will inexorably transform the market for the subsidized and the profitable alike: briefly, these developments involve raising the cash from the pockets of the true potential audience. Sir Peter Hall points out that if he puts on an opera at Glyndebourne, within six months it may well have been seen or heard by several million people, thanks to radio and television. The problem is making the punters pay.

Making the punter pay

At the moment a television or video company simply puts up the money and shoots the production or, increasingly, puts up the money for the original director to shoot the production. This is fine but not massively profitable, and it leaves the original subsidizer with most of the production bill. The balance of power should switch slightly with the advent of cable and satellite television, as the broadcasting companies will require huge amounts of new material simply to fill their schedules. At the moment the arts companies are picking up mere scraps from this source.

Yet the new technology's true impact will not be simply upon cash flow: it will also strike at audiences. Television will need something "hand-made" and "excellent" to broadcast, but it may threaten the real viability of that hand-made excellence by taking away its live audience.

The final point is this: the arts are unprecedentedly wealthy and, assuming they can learn to live with the problems, should become even more so as a result of the new technology and increased leisure. But the problems of applying money to art as such will always remain - first because quality is a minority interest and, second, because nobody is ever sure what is the best. The consequence is continuous friction, a constant failure of the money and the art ever quite to understand each other.

The *Culture Club* crisis in the arts is published on Monday by Faber and Faber (price £2.95)

Tomorrow

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Crippling yourself in the long run

Is there any cure for marathon running?

This affliction was hardly known 10 years ago, yet now it is reckoned to be one of the fastest growing physical conditions in the western world, with no signs of abating. The victim can spend an hour or two each day in pain, often quite severe. It may also affect his private life and have a damaging effect on his conversation, as relations and friends learn to their cost.

What can be done about it? Some large cities like London and New York now set aside one day a year when sufferers are given the freedom of the streets to work off their condition.

This is not enough, according to Dr. Adidas, Professor of Advanced Sports Injuries at Milton Keynes University. "First of all we have to get the public to realize that this is an ailment, and an addictive ailment at that. Awareness of a

complaint is half the battle. Don't forget that for many years smoking was thought to be a smart social habit, just as marathon running is now.

"Secondly, and more important, we have to discover the motives for marathon running. Why do people inflict this pain on their bodies? Why do they shake their bones, and deliver such punishment to their legs? If we could discover the deep-seated cause of such irrational behaviour, we could start to eliminate it.

"There have been many moves to ban boxing on the grounds that such battering to the head must result in brain damage. But marathon runners receive an equal battering to the feet. If they kept their brains in their feet, there would already be a tremendous outcry - in fact, after talking to many people suffering from marathon running, I'm not sure that some of them don't have brains down their legs somewhere."

One common factor among many sufferers is the belief that although marathon running itself can be painful, not to say almost unbearable, the feeling of relief afterwards is so great that the whole thing is worth it.

"The only parallel I can think of for this attitude is a religious one. Many religions are based on the idea that a wretched life on earth is worth it if the after-life is blissful. Pay now, travel later, you might say. Well, in our agnostic age, where nobody seems convinced of an after-life, it may well be that marathon runners are craving for the same sensation of bliss after pain.

"What persuades me that I might be on the right track is the language used by those hooked on marathon running. They always talk about 'punishing' the body, about 'pushing it beyond the limit', about 'strict training' and 'hard graft'. What has the body done to deserve all this 'punishment' and 'strictness'? Nothing. They are simply

trying to recapture the guilt-ridden ethos of fundamental religions, to go through the cycle of sin, expiation and redemption.

"If you have ever been present at the end of a marathon race and seen the suffering, the staring, pain-wracked faces, you will have been reminded inexorably of paintings of souls in torment, of medieval concepts of hell."

Dr. Adidas is now hard at work on a new book about marathon running, which he is writing in collaboration with the Totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Visiting Lecturer in Applied Theology at Milton Keynes. It is to be entitled either "The Magic Marathon? A Modern Addiction?" or "Running Yourself Into the Ground, And How to Stop It". Their aim is twofold: to give hope to marathon addicts, and to bring the book out before Geoffrey Cannon does one on the same subject.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 299)

ACROSS

- Being born (7)
- Ecuador currency (5)
- Payment promise (11,11)
- Sparkle brightly (7)
- Damp (5)
- Earned entrance (-4)
- Bridged (7)
- Not renting householder (5,8)
- Add distinction (7)
- Charge weapon (4)
- Doglike pack animal (5)
- Unlawful possessor (7)
- Despicable person (3)
- Osier (5)
- Boisterous square dance (7)

DOWN

- Near (4)
- Glib talk (5)
- Very unusual (13)
- Wearies (5)
- With utmost praise (5,3,5)
- Tuscany wine (7)
- Outer embryo layer (8)
- Travelling (4)
- entertainment (14,4)
- Disregard (7)
- Addressee (5)
- Test (5)
- St Paul's architect (4)

SOLUTION TO No 298

ACROSS: 1 Belief 5 Shogun 8 USM 9 Tussle 10 Abrupt 11 Real 12 Remember 14 Rubbernecking 17 Alleluia 19 Some 21 Snitch 23 Icicle 24 Egg 25 Adorer 26 Notary

DOWN: 2 Elude 3 Insoluble 4 Fuehrer 5 Smarm 6 Our 7 Umpire 13 Makeshift 15 Unlined 16 Elation 18 Usher 20 Molar 22 TIR

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FRIDAY PAGE

Sheilah Graham tells Shirley Lowe why a life of writing has left her with few filmstar friends

The second biggest bitch in Hollywood

"It's hard to believe that a girl as pretty as you is the biggest bitch in Hollywood", said actress Constance Bennett when the young Sheilah Graham was introduced to her on set. "Not the biggest bitch, Connie," replied Miss Graham, quick as a flash. "The second-biggest bitch!" And then she cried all the way home, a remarkably thin-skinned reaction for a reporter who was prepared to dish the dirt on everyone else.

"I can't take rejection," says the English-born Miss Graham. "That's to do with being thrown into an orphanage at the age of six." As everyone who has read any of her 10 books will know (the eleventh is *My Hollywood*), she emerged from the orphanage, did a stint demonstrating toothbrushes in Gamage's, as a Cochrane Young Lady, as a young wife to a major who spotted her cleaning her teeth in Gamage's ("What a pretty young girl like you doing etc. etc. etc.") and as a New York reporter, before she became one of The Unholy Trio in Hollywood. Louella Parsons and Hedda Hopper were the two others. "We were known as The Witches' Cauldron," says Sheila. "Bubble, bubble toil and trouble. Louella was bubble, bubble. I was toil and Hedda was trouble."

She was, and still is, one of those compulsive gossips who are so basically bitchy that you feel almost guilty about encouraging her to tell. Clark Gable was Hollywood's favourite macho man when Sheilah Graham wrote him. Clark Gable threw back his handsome head and exposed a necklace on which a thin edge of fat is beginning to collect. She tells us why Ginger Rogers is still rich: "I remember the bottle of sweets she gave at the end of her London engagement in *Mame* to be divided among all the members of the orchestra." She recalls that Joan Crawford drank 120-proof vodka all

the time she was filming and still managed to block the lighting and cast dark shadows on her co-star's faces, that Shirley Temple's mother used to bring the necessary cinematic tears to the child-star's eyes by telling her that her pet dog had had an accident. "After the successful shot Mummy explained that the accident was not serious and the pet would recover."

She even revealed that sex symbol Dietrich was, in reality, "a goody-goody haus frau who enjoys baking bread in her spare time", and "you can't get more libellous than that."

No minute of gossip is too trivial for Miss Graham's pen. Revealing that Ronnie doesn't dye, after all, but uses "a strong rinse," she says: "How do I know this? A friend of a friend reported a slight dark brown stain 'on the white fabric head-protector on the presidential plane.'"



Sheilah Graham: 800 words of gossip a day for forty years

"I won't be remembered for my writing," she says now. "I'll be remembered as Scott's mistress." Miss Graham makes much of the fact that she was a virgin when she married (she went on sending the major a monthly cheque until he died in the 1960s, incidentally), that she didn't actually live with Fitzgerald, and that she only ever slept with one film star. Her second marriage, to Trevor Cresswell Lawrence Westbrook, Beaverbrook's right hand man during the war, didn't last. "I only saw him twice and we have two children."

She won't speak of her third marriage. "I had two years of agony; the kind of thing I write about happening to other people was happening to me." She is not, she says, good marriage material. "I want my own way..." and prefers to move house instead. Her daughter is the dean of a woman's

college in Virginia and has two children, her son married and was divorced and has one. Sheilah witnessed the child casualties in Hollywood - the sons of Charles Boyer, Louis Jourdan, Gregory Peck, Dan Dailey, Ray Milland and Mary Tyler Moore all killed themselves - and wisely sent her own to boarding school out east. "Otherwise they might have believed that everyone had a swimming pool and a tennis court."

The Christmas before last Miss Graham gave her granddaughter a nurse's outfit and her grandson a doctor's outfit. "Do you know what happened?" she says. "My daughter, the dean, switched them around. Well, I don't agree with any of that at all. I've always made my own way, done what I wanted to do without any of that; without any help from anyone."

Sheilah Graham is as circumspect about her age as she is about her

third husband, but she must be somewhere in her seventies. She has a disarmingly cosy manner, worries about her weight and says she's spent half her life getting into things and the other half getting out.

The last time she was over here she elaborated a piece of gossip about the man next door (a Well Known Name) and had to get the story suppressed. Tomorrow she faces Wogan. "Is he nice? Is he kind? I hear he likes to talk about sex?" When she's being interviewed she likes to write a warning memo to herself on the palm of her hand. Tomorrow, she intends to write simply: "Watch out."

She won't. "I've always been indiscreet," she says. "I've always taken chances. I've always said 'Yes'. Well, nothing ever happens to you if you say 'No'."

"My Hollywood. To be published March 26 by Michael Joseph. £10.95."

COMMENT

How do we decide when a motorist has grown too old to take the wheel?

When time overtakes the elderly driver

In the depths of darkest Dorset, when I was a boy, we knew a dear old clergyman who drove until he was 90. His car, like him, was showing signs of age, and usually needed cranking to make it start. This was beyond his physical powers, so he used to stand in engaging helplessness by his garage door, starting handle in hand, until a passing neighbour offered to turn it for him. He would then drive off, hugging the crown of the road, because his poor eyesight prevented him accurately gauging the distance between his near-side wing and the hedge.

Unfortunately there is a less funny side to this story. A friend of mine has an octogenarian neighbour whose car has an ever-growing collection of dents, caused by the driver's failing eyesight, hearing and clutch control, during parking. Parents in that street live in daily fear that one of their children will be accidentally run down or crushed.

nothing about it. Insurance companies often require a doctor's certificate before renewing cover for an elderly driver, but this is the only advance screening that occurs. A driving licence lasts until the holder is 70, after which it must be renewed every three years; but all that an elderly driver has to do to renew his licence is to state in writing that he is still fit to drive.

Even if he is 100, he needs no medical evidence of fitness, let alone a requirement to pass another test. So unless he is both honest and aware of his infirmities - when he will probably give up voluntarily - he can often go on driving until he hits someone, and then, if he is prosecuted and convicted of a traffic offence, the court may disqualify him from driving until he passes another test. This is done in about 1,500 cases every year.

It is not an exaggeration to say that just as every dog is supposedly allowed one bite, so every senile



Indeed, an number of elderly drivers do get involved in very serious accidents. In Cambridge last summer, a retired doctor of 80 got onto the M11 and drove the wrong way along the fast lane. In the resulting collision she was killed, and the driver of another car very badly injured. In the same area two months later, a driver of 81 ran down a mother of two children. On a fine summer's day she failed to see the bicycle in front of her, hit it, and dragged the rider's body 100 yards before she stopped. A few years ago, a 73-year-old motorist drove through Bury when suffering from a stroke. After hitting a van and grinding a cyclist into the gutter he wrecked another car, seriously injuring the driver and her child passenger. His insurers disputed liability on the grounds that a semi-conscious driver could not be described as negligent.

Obviously, an elderly driver is not necessarily a danger just because he is old. Nor need one be old to be a dangerous driver. But it certainly helps, because old age brings on certain ailments which make it highly unsafe to drive; for example, bad eyesight, poor concentration, and enhanced risk of blackouts.

At present, we do virtually

motorist is allowed one smash. The police are understandably unhappy with this state of affairs. The Association of Chief Police Officers recently advocated the introduction of fitness tests for elderly drivers.

This will not be a popular proposal in some quarters. It is a sad fact of modern life that the older people get, so they become more dependent on motor-cars. This is increasingly the case in the country, with its dwindling bus services and unhappily vanished trains. Indeed, there must be a growing number of old people living on their own for whom the ability to drive is one of the things which makes life worth living.

But nobody, however anti-ageist or pro-motorist, can seriously argue that old people ought to be permitted to drive if they are demonstrably unfit to do so.

The present policy is obviously costly in life and limb. Also, it is only dubiously kind to the elderly driver. Ought we to tempt a respectable octogenarian to do what he is no longer fit to do, and then make a public exhibition of him in the criminal courts for doing his incompetent best?

J. R. Spencer

In the teeth of danger

A timely word of warning has been given by Dr D. MacAuley and Dr I. O'Brien of the The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital; they have written to the *British Medical Journal* describing the fatal effects of swallowing Steradent tablets, now stocked by most householders.

Before the advent of modern dentistry it was commonplace for visiting doctors to find patients, sometimes only in their thirties and forties, lying with false teeth hubbub away beside them in a Steradent-laced glass of water. At this time the glass was confined to dentistry and their presence to the

bathrooms of the edentulous. Recently, however, other uses have been found for the tablets so that they are left lying around kitchens or even dining rooms, for wine connoisseurs have discovered that there is no better way of cleaning the stains from inside a decanter; in a more prosaic role they are equally effective against the hardwater encrustations inside a basin or resistant tea stains in a cup.

The patient in Devon, having accidentally taken seven tablets, had severe swelling and burning of the mouth and throat; she died from bleeding into her lungs and ulceration of her stomach and intestines.

The doctors point out that Steradent tablets smell nice; they look like, and are packaged like, other pills, but are not supplied in childproof containers. They are anxious to bring to the general public's attention the product's toxicity so that it can be kept out of the reach of children.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Diet debate

Doctors disagree about the advantages of school milk. A detailed American study of nearly 500 babies born in 1974-75 shows that coronary heart disease risk factors, both genetic and environmental, are discernable soon after birth and show a particularly dramatic rise between six months and a year. American cardiologists have recently issued recommendations, in line with those of the World Health Organisation, that the proportion of a child's total calorie intake taken as fat should not exceed 30 per cent, of which only a third should be in the saturated form.

Those doctors who do not worry about children having cholesterol-rich foods, and thus establishing dietary habits which may persist

into adult life, welcome the fact that school milk provides even the poorest child with some wholesome nourishment daily.

If the medical profession is divided in the battle of the school milk they will be united in their support of the Chancellor's attack this year on fish and chips, Chinese takeaways and hamburgers nesting in white bread buns. No doctor condemns fish and potatoes, but they are appalled at the amount of saturated fat which has been used to turn them into fish and chips. They are not much happier about Chinese takeaways, as they contain high levels of sodium; in excess this causes high blood pressure with a subsequent risk of a stroke or a coronary thrombosis.

Generous donor

When Mr Rodney Burrows, a 34-year-old Norfolk journalist, was involved in covering the story of Britain's longest-living heart transplant patient, Mr Keith Castle at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge. He was impressed both by the miraculous transformation he saw in Mr Castle's and other transplant patients' conditions, and by the comfort bestowed on the bereaved when their relative had been a donor. As a result, he, his wife and his mother all signed donor cards.

Three weeks ago Mr Burrows was driving home to Welney when his car skidded on oil spill on the road in the village of Three Holes. Mr Burrows suffered irreversible brain damage. Minutes after he died in hospital transplant surgeons removed his liver, heart, pancreas, kidneys and eyes.

The young woman at Addenbrookes Hospital who received one of the kidneys and the pancreas will be particularly cheered by a paper written by her doctor, Professor Roy Calne, in this week's *Lancet*. Last year he published in the *BMJ* a gloomy review of pancreatic transplants; but in the *Lancet* paper, in which he outlines the apparently beneficial effects of a change of technique, he is far more encouraging.

The other kidney was transplanted into a young boy at The London Hospital, Whitechapel, the cornex from his eyes were grafted onto two patients at the Norfolk & Norwich, his heart valves were used at Harefield Hospital; only his liver wasn't used as, very unusually, no suitable recipient was ready for it. All the patients are doing well.

Allergy overkill

A woman formerly prominent in public life used to cause comment before formal dinners by sweeping aside civic silver, glass and plates and replacing them with disposable plastic. She was, or thought she was, allergic to all forms of washing-up soap; at the time her belief was greeted with scepticism rather than sympathy, but patients and doctors alike are now becoming increasingly aware of the diverse problems which can be caused by allergy to many substances, including foods and food additives. Food allergies can be demonstrated by skin testing or by carrying out a double blind trial where neither doctor nor patient knows if the supposed allergen has been included in the diet. Despite these well-proved methods of testing some patients are

so obsessed by the imagined problem that they will persist in their own diagnosis against all the medical evidence.

Drs Warner and Hathaway from the allergy clinic at St Mary's have written in the *Archives of Diseases in Children* of a particularly unfortunate manifestation of this obsession where a mother diagnoses the trouble not in herself, but in her children.

They studied 17 children of 11 mothers who, with no medical evidence, were convinced that such varied symptoms as diarrhoea, bed wetting, urinary tract infections or behaviour problems were due to food allergy. The unhappy children were subjected to very restricted diets and often made to live bizarre lifestyles. One of the mothers, fearful that her children might be exposed to allergies circulating in the air, wrapped them in lavatory paper and oven silver foil before putting them to bed on the back of an upturned wardrobe.

The mothers were predominantly well-educated and articulate, but most had domestic problems, two were unmarried, one divorced, from unhappily married. Two had obvious psychiatric disease.

Only three of the mothers modified their children's lifestyle after medical advice.

Why the worm?

Worms may conjure up pictures of yards of tapeworm clogging up the intestines but the most common infestation in this country is by a much more innocent creature - the threadworm. Each worm is white and about 1cm long and can sometimes be seen wriggling in the faeces.

What is remarkable about this worm is that little is known about it. How widespread are infestations? Why has it managed to persist? The answers are speculative.

Dr Alexander Gatherer, community physician in Oxford, has done a few small-scale studies on children and estimates that between a quarter and a third of children are probably infested, and nearer 50 per cent of children in long-stay hospitals could carry worms.

In some European countries levels of infestation are lower and Dr Gatherer speculates that regular use of bidets may prevent reinfection. Eggs are laid in the anal region which then cling to fingers and clothes and, unless the child is scrupulously hygienic, the eggs find their way back to the child's mouth and the life cycle is repeated.

Dr Gatherer is surprised that infestations have not been controlled but he puts that down to lack of medical interest; there is no evidence to suggest the worms do any harm and the majority with them are asymptomatic.

This lack of concern also explains the paucity of national statistics and why most infested families go straight to the chemist for help. Infestation with threadworms is not a disease, a little like lice, they cause more social anxiety than a medical emergency.

Thomas Stuttaford

Correction

Lieutenant Jan Harper was not the first woman to command a troop of the Royal Engineers (headline, March 16). Lieutenant Penny Denton preceded her.

There's still a better choice of interest rates from April 1st - with the Woolwich

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THE TIMES DIARY

With right on their side

Ken Livingstone was reeling with disbelief yesterday after just missing - by only four votes - the support of the right-wing Institute of Directors' Surrey branch members, for his campaign to save the Greater London Council.

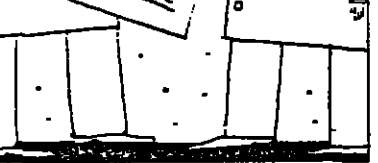
By 91-87 the members voted for the Government's case. "The narrowness of the margin was all down to our brilliant logic, wit and good humour", bubbled Frances Morrell of the Inner London Education Authority, who was in the red corner with Livingstone in the Tory stronghold of Esher.

Race to the post

Sir Ian Gilmour's controversial Bill to allow bookies to make their betting shops plush and cosy for punters has been sneaked through an unopposed second reading.

Sir Ian, who used to share three racehorses with his mother - one called Spartan Sacrifice, and another Golden Dice - first presented his Bill, which would enable bookies to install furniture, televisions and amusements, last July. But every Friday, the hapless Bill was shot down by MPs representing opponents such as priests and preachers. On March 7 it was suddenly withdrawn, and all assumed that Sir Ian had finally thrown in the towel.

Not so. Sir Ian had simply changed its name from the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill to Specified Premises (Improvement) Bill. Now the Private Member's Bill will go to the Standing Committee, with man; MPs none the wiser.



When you say he's a high ranking officer, what exactly do you mean?

Salty talk

Chernenko must be indebted for the advice from two prominent Americans in Moscow this week. Ted Turner, king of cable television, after gorging himself in the fashionable Praga restaurant, declared loudly that it was about time Moscow and Washington stopped all this fighting and started talking to each other. Also in town was Norman Mailer, who suggested the Russians needed a good American PR man to brush up their image.

Neil Kinnock's minders were somewhat baffled when the Labour leader was given a hero's welcome the other day when he visited a children's ward at Sally Oak Hospital, Birmingham. The truth slowly dawned. They thought Kinnock was Tracy Ullman's boyfriend.

Who's redundant?

I warned things would get worse for Leif Mills, and they have. A member of the white-collar union Apex, he is also general secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu). About 35 members of Apex employed by Bifu went on strike over a redundancy dispute, and Mills has been on the other side of the fence leading a Bifu management team in peace negotiations with the striking members of his own union. Apex has called out the entire Bifu staff on strike so Leif Mills is now crossing his own official Apex picket line. Olive branch or not, he is now in theory stands to face a reprimand, and even a fine, from his union, Apex that is.

Cri de coeur

As Liberal leader David Steel prepares to visit Argentina, financed by party funds, Labour and Conservative members of the peace-seeking South Atlantic Council are struggling to raise money for their air fares. Cyril Townsend, Tory MP, and Labour MP George Foulkes, who jointly set up the council last winter - were forced to postpone their trip to Buenos Aires this month until June, after their budget was drained by the cost of a full-time researcher. Diplomatic sensitivity means no money can be accepted from Argentine or British governments. If need be, Foulkes will resort to rattling the can in Westminster lobbies.



George Walden on the manoeuvrings behind Mr Heseltine's reforms

More diplomacy for defence

Something new, and unnoticed, is happening at the Ministry of Defence. So far Michael Heseltine's reforms have been received either as a predictable echo of his managerial revolution at the Department of the Environment, or as an in-service reorganization ruffling the military establishment. But although the title of his announcement - "MINIS and the Development of the Organization of Defence" - may have the instantly distancing quality of the Chancellor's famous M(O), the contents are more alluring than the label.

The proposals are couched in decisive, first-person prose and are reasonably brief. It is ironic, therefore, that despite their appearance in an "Open Government" document, one key item should have excited so little notice. "I wish in future to be advised by a Central Defence Arms Control Unit including both professional military and civilian advisors, responsible to CDS (Chief of the Defence Staff) and PUS (Permanent Under-Secretary) but organizationally separate from the Defence Staff."

Sceptics may conclude that it all has more to do with Whitehall infighting than the pursuit of peace by all available means. It might, for example, be thought that Mr Heseltine has decided that arms control is too serious a matter to be left to doleful diplomats, and is mounting a takeover bid to put peace back into more reliable military hands. Not only is this intrinsically unlikely; it would be politically self-defeating. The real position is, I suspect, more complex and more encouraging.

At present, formal responsibility for arms control rests with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In consultation with the MoD, Mrs Thatcher specifically reaffirmed the position when she came to office. But recent events have no doubt had their effect. Financially and politically expensive decisions on cruise and Trident have been shown to be inextricably bound up with their arms control implications. The Foreign Office may still be in the front line at the conference table abroad; but it is the Secretary of State for Defence who gets caught up most closely in the seamless web of defence and arms control - and in the seething crowds too.

It has fallen mainly to Mr Heseltine's lot to argue the case for the decision to deploy cruise, Trident and Pershing before some unenthusiastic, and occasionally over-responsive, audiences and to deal with the interminable antics of the Furies of Greenham Common. Such experiences are unlikely to weaken his or the Government's resolve. But they must focus the political mind wonderfully on how we got here and where we go next.

In Britain, the notion that arms control is something that diplomats and politicians propose and soldiers and the MoD resist has never been watertight. There have been no noisy or stagey conflicts between two factions of government, as in the United States. One has only to read Lord Carver or Sir Frank Cooper to be reminded that this simple antithesis does not apply here.

There are, of course, natural differences of function; the primary instincts of the military are to defend and deter rather than negotiate down their stock of weapons. It would be a miracle, for example, if the scope for lively internal debate on the number of warheads to be carried by Britain's Trident were not fully exploited. But increasingly the stark realization is

gaining ground that, in political terms, it is all one ball of wax. Everyone wants sound defences but without undue tension or expense.

This is where Mr Heseltine's reforms have a bearing. Until now two small sections of the MoD have dealt with arms control: a tiny group in the defence secretariat, shadowed by a small military staff. Together, they in turn shadow the two main FO departments, which themselves reflect the defence/arms control division. Now, instead of forming part of the new defence staff, which would have been the logical step, the two MoD cells are to amalgamate in a new unit and become more directly responsible to the secretary of state.



This change may seem less revolutionary. But it is in the filigree of such bureaucratic arcanas that deeper political truths are revealed. In blunt terms, Mr Heseltine seems to wish to come to grips with the diplomacy of defence. The new arrangements should mean that his experts will be more responsive to his personal wishes, and will make it easier for him to launch and follow through initiatives by ensuring that advice and instructions are piped hot to everyone's desks, and are not split, diluted or cooled off on the way there or back.

In the past, arms control has been a Cinderella subject in the MoD, even though some brilliant brains have worked on it. It is easily overshadowed by mainstream defence business. But now that a clear space has been set aside for it, it could grow and flourish, particularly if tended by politicians who are alive to its potential.

The change in Whitehall has a broader logic. Arms control has been a growth subject in Nato too for

some years, and particularly since the minor disaster of the neutron bomb, whose very name reflected exquisite insensitivity to the public-relations aspect of defence.

The special consultative group set up to coordinate the West's intermediate range Nuclear Forces strategy has worked well too. In Brussels the message that defence and arms control are not contradictory, but complementary, has been well and truly learnt. The very reluctance of President Reagan to recognize this binary truism helped to institutionalize the subject there, as European members of Nato baulked with the shock waves caused as much by Washington's rhetoric, in those thickly distant days, as by the decision itself to deploy missiles in Europe. On an even wider plane, for good or ill East-West relations themselves have settled into the twin grooves of arms control and defence.

The politicization of defence - in the best sense - is inherent in many of Mr Heseltine's reforms. They will help the Government to argue that its relentless search for efficiency and economy is not confined to the "soft parts" of public expenditure, such as education, health and local government, but to the military too. They also recognize that arms control has entered the domestic political bloodstream, and remind the public that the MoD is a thinking machine.

The assumption of a conflict of interest between "the people" and their armed forces, implicit in the most insidious type of "peace studies" psychology, can gain ground in unexpected places. The Government must counter-attack by securing and extending the broadest national consensus on defence and disarmament. That seems to be what Mr Heseltine is about.

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham.

Jonathan Davis asks if the trade and industry secretary's actions conflict with his words

Is Norman Tebbit growing soggy?



New dilemmas: Norman Tebbit considers the options.

competition and free markets in every possible sector of the economy and the prevention of monopoly abuse."

In the nationalized-industry sector this means privatization, wherever possible. "It is," he said, "my conviction and determination that we should act promptly and radically on privatization."

Words of course are one thing, actions another and here the evidence is more mixed. Last month's public spending White Paper shows that Mr Tebbit is not being allowed to run wild with the taxpayer's money, even if he wanted to. His department's spending is expected to decline from a peak of £3,240m in 1981/2 and its present level of £1,800m to £1,360m in 1986/7.

A fair proportion of the drop is

attributable to the improved financial performance of the so-called "lame ducks" in Mr Tebbit's care - principally British Shipbuilders, BL, British Steel and Rolls-Royce - but it also reflects a genuine cut in real terms in the amount of "pump priming" cash and general industrial assistance available to the department.

Mr Tebbit has emphasized that the cash for both the Airbus and this week's package of support will come from within the existing budget. The current review of regional policy which Mr Tebbit inherited from Mr Parkinson is certain to lead to fewer and more selective regional grants to industry, which has long been an aim of right-wing economic ideologies.

The biggest privatization project on Mr Tebbit's hands is the planned

floatation of British Telecom on the stock market this autumn. He has staunchly defended the decision to keep the corporation intact as a single entity, despite accusations that this will merely substitute a private for public sector monopoly. This policy, enthusiastically endorsed by his junior minister, Mr Kenneth Baker, was also inherited by Mr Tebbit from his predecessors. Whether he was one of those cabinet ministers who initiated, argued in favour of the most radical option of breaking up British Telecom in the interests of creating more "genuine" competition is not known. If so, there has been no public hint of it.

That Mr Tebbit is an enthusiastic privatizer is not doubted however. He has played an active role in drawing up the £10,000m programme of privatization options for the next five years which was approved by ministers earlier this year. His department is pressing ahead with a number of plans, including the sale of British Shipbuilders' warship yards, the floatation of Jaguar - and in the longer term - the injection of private capital into Rolls-Royce. If it goes through, the sale of Scott Lithgow to the Trafalgar House consortium will remove another long-standing government headache.

There is no doubt, however, that the decisions on Airbus and this week's technology package have introduced the first scintilla of doubt about how true Mr Tebbit's economic faith really is. It is interesting that they should coincide with the publication of a new book by Mr John Redwood, head of Mrs Thatcher's policy unit, which castigates the Department of Industry for its wretched record on industrial policy over the last 15 years.

Mr Redwood, a merchant banker whose right-wing and intellectual credentials are not in doubt, has produced a fairly devastating critique of the industrial record of British governments - Conservative and Labour - over the years. All governments have been equally unsuccessful in standing up whether to the big nationalized industry barons or to the interventionist mandarins of the Department of Industry. Their record at picking or backing winners, especially those the market has failed to support, is lamentable.

At the end of his 144-page survey of such sorry sagas as De Lorean, British Steel, BL and the NEB's high-tech twins, Inmos and Nexos, Mr Redwood's conclusion is that looking at the whole record of governments' involvement in industry, the conclusion must be "that it would be better if they did not intervene at all".

Is Mr Tebbit listening?

Why Congress sank Reagan's leak-proof plan

The leak - official, anonymous, well-meaning or malicious - is a Washington institution. The last three varieties come under attack from all presidents, but usually not with the Draconian kind of measures envisaged by President Reagan.

If he had his way - and so far he has not - he would compel more than 100,000 officials in the White House, the Pentagon and other departments that handle intelligence secrets, to sign lifelong censorship agreements. He would also expect all government employees to subject themselves to lie-detector tests if they were suspected of leaking.

On March 11 last year, he issued directives imposing both those measures. On lie-detector tests he warned, somewhat brutally, that investigators might decide that "adverse consequences will follow an employee's refusal to cooperate with a polygraph examination."

That set the American Civil Liberties Union ablaze with indignation. But by far the most determined opponent the President has encountered has been Congress itself. It does, after all, depend for its survival on the trafficking of information - a process practised casually, though discreetly, among reporters, lobbyists, and government officials both high and low.

Only intelligence agents are at present subjected to the kind of measures that Mr Reagan wants to extend throughout the federal bureaucracy. Not only current employees would fall into his net; he also wants former officials to submit their writings and speeches for the rest of their lives for "prepublication review".

Opposition to that idea has come from both sides of the House. Republican Congressman Charles Mathias of Maryland said Mr Reagan's plan would create "a

system which would allow the officials of one administration to censor the writings of their predecessors".

Nothing that Mr Reagan is trying to do would, it appears, help prevent espionage. The widespread view in Congress is that the real purpose is to stem embarrassing leaks and to ensure that the administration enjoys a powerful and intimidating control over the distribution of information.

Congress moved swiftly after Mr Reagan had issued his directive, and it blocked the measure temporarily. Mr Reagan agreed to suspend its implementation indefinitely, although it has not been withdrawn. He has now indicated, however, that the administration is willing to seek a bipartisan solution.

The anonymous leak is by far the most prevalent variety in Washington. Leaks by former officials in writings and speeches accounted for only 21 of 328 "unauthorized

disclosures of classified information" over a five-year period surveyed at six government agencies by the General Accounting Office last year. Only one or two of the leaks were deemed to be of the kind that could be prejudicial to national security.

The author of Mr Reagan's sweeping measures was Mr Richard Willard, an official in the Justice Department. He said the lie detector test was potentially very useful, both for ferreting out those who leaked government secrets to the press, and for catching foreign spies. There are many, however, who dispute the validity of polygraph tests.

The latest leak from White House sources is that President Reagan did not expect such a storm and that he may let his anti-leak measures stay quietly on the shelf.

Christopher Thomas

David Watt

Twitchiness in the president's camp

Can Ronald Reagan really be beaten in this year's presidential elections by anyone on two legs, black or white, male or female, superman or master mind? The question, which is naturally beginning to loom out of the Democratic Party primary, may look simple, and the current answer in the opinion polls is simpler still. If the elections were held next week, Reagan, without lifting another finger, would win against any available opposition.

This conclusion gives a certain gloss of self-satisfaction to the pronouncements of the present incumbent of the White House, and, of course, the more Messrs Mondale and Hart blackguard each other as they slug it out for the Democratic nomination (a process which now looks likely to go on for months), the more patronizingly genial President Reagan becomes. "I don't think there is any need for any generational struggle here," he remarked the other day, when asked how he would react to the Hart phenomenon. "But if there is, maybe we can settle it with an arm wrestle."

Nevertheless, Reagan is not by any means free of problems. In the first place he starts from a less promising political base than most people suppose.

It is easy to forget that Reagan won the 1980 election only by a tiny overall majority of 2.5 million votes out of more than 80 million cast - in spite of the unpopularity of Jimmy Carter. Admittedly, without the intervention of an independent candidate, John Anderson, who somehow managed to capture 5.7 million votes, the margin would have looked bigger; but Anderson's supporters were mainly disgruntled liberals and cannot bring much prospective comfort to the president this time.

Nor can a number of other groups fail to do what was expected of them by Carter in 1980. The blacks, many of whom went fishing when they should have been voting a Democratic, are much more likely to come out after four years of high black unemployment; moreover a tremendous surge of black - and for that matter Hispanic - voter registrations has probably swollen their numbers by as much as a couple of million.

Women, the majority of whom voted Reagan four years ago, have been alienated by his rather slipshod feminism. And above all, will the blue-collar workers of "middle America" - whose desertion from their old Democratic leader was probably the single largest cause of Carter's downfall - regard the reduction of inflation and the lowering of tax rates in the higher brackets as more meritorious than the present level of unemployment?

The two Democratic contenders would harvest these missing voters by rather different means. Mondale would appeal to the old-fashioned Democratic coalition loyalty of blacks and organized labour and any other malcontented interests he can tag on.

Hart, an issues and image politician, would rely upon the attraction of his own youthful charisma as well as an eclectic but ultimately conservative appeal to middle America on domestic issues. Of these two, it looks from the opinion polls as if the latter strategy would be the more effective, but either way there is plenty of evidence that behind the bland exterior, the White House is beginning to get twitchy.

The first, and probably the easiest, part of the president's counter-strategy is already being put into effect.

Philip Howard

A tabloid word, easy to digest

The Times is not going tabloid - yet. There are certain advantages in the smaller format for a newspaper. The columnists have fewer words to write; though it is conventional wisdom in the inky trade that it is easier to write 1,000 than 200 words on any subject (which must be why the backs on the tabloids get paid so much more than their counterparts on the broadsheets). A tabloid page of 12 by 16 inches is exactly the right size to frame a pic of a gorgeous, pouting Times-girl, imprudently dressed for the nipping winds of March, and protruding herself at the camera in a way that gives a new, and somewhat improper, meaning to the tag, "Ars est celare artem".

But, in spite of the advantage, tabloid will not do for The Times. Not enough meat for the reading chaps and chappesses who buy us. And it is the wrong shape for the crossword. Most of us do the crossword standing up in the Tube in the rush hour, buffeted by bottoms of complete strangers, holding The Times folded in four as a firm writing board in our left hands, and using the right hands to wield the biro and scratch our heads. There was once a wheeze to redesign The Times so that the crossword ran horizontally across the bottom of the back page, or even appeared on the penultimate page. It was hastily dropped because of the avalanche of protest from the rampant crossword-puzzlers.

Let us not go tabloid; but let us consider the name tabloid, the cliché that found a niche in the English language. It was a dark and stormy night, a hundred years ago this March, Henry Solomon Wellcome, the manufacturing chemist about to make his fortune from drugs for the masses, was having a nightmare about rivals in the business, who were flooding tons of tablets to the hypochondriac and gullible. At half-past four in the morning Wellcome

He is now busy securing his political base on the right. The hard conservatives are, amazingly, extremely disappointed with Reagan. He has not, for their taste, been sufficiently tough on the Soviet Union or the weak-kneed, neutralist Europeans. He has not given unequivocal support to Israel; he has not cut the budget deficit in due accordance with monetarist prescription; he has not squeezed scroungers or carried his chastisement of crime and immorality to any very practical conclusion.

Now, however, he has been making handsome rhetorical amends for these derelictions, ardently crusading for the proposed constitutional amendment in favour of prayer, backing the campaign against abortion and generally sounding like the old Reagan of the 1980 campaign. Ungenerous cynics are raising their eyebrows at all this "moral majority" stuff coming from the President, who goes to church himself only once in a blue moon, and several of his administration, including his closest political adviser Edward R. Royce, are currently being hauled through a blaze of publicity for financial transactions which certainly offend against the Christian code and quite possibly the legal one too. But the main thing is that by a little touch of hypocrisy a damaging attack on Reagan's near can be prevented and any blame for the triumph of atheism placed elsewhere (and preferably on the Democrats).

A similar, time-honoured tactic is being employed in relation to the economy. The White House last week reached a compromise with Republican senators that would reduce the federal budget and leave the Democrats the responsibility for further cuts in defence expenditure which can be labelled irresponsible, or cuts in social expenditure that will harm their own constituency.

Behind these tactical ploys lie the solid political questions of 1984. These are whether the American people - and particularly the prosperous lower middle class - believe that the economy is on the right track, and whether they like Ronald Reagan enough to keep him, for all his faults, in the White House.

On the first point, the President at first sight looks in good shape. The American economy is growing nicely. Wall Street is booming, and real disposable income has risen steadily on average for the past year. As yet there is a slightly cracked and uncertain note coming out, along with the busy humming of machinery. Change in old industries such as steel is causing massive regional problems in some states; and over all hangs the prospect that the whole engine will crash into the buffers of high interest rates as soon as the election is out of the way.

As for Reagan's personal popularity, it remains amazingly high. He is a master of television, and the image he projects with such easy charm is decent and authoritative. He has made Americans feel at ease with him and in doing so he has restored to the presidency what, after Nixon, Ford and Carter, is badly needed. This knack survives miraculously, despite disasters such as the Lebanon, and remarkable exhibitions of cupidity or insensitivity by his associates, to say nothing of his own indolence and advancing age.

At present it looks just about enough to carry him through to the second term, but there are more cracks to cover than in 1980 and a determined opponent might make it look very thin.

woke with a start and the new word tabloid on his lips. The combination of tablets and alkaloid sounded irresistibly scientific. He summoned his unfortunate secretary at once to dictate a memo on the subject. And shortly afterwards he registered "Tabloid" as his trademark. Tabloid was used as the proprietary brand name to describe not just his patent pills, but also medicine chests, food products, Tabloid Tea, and his publications.

Unfortunately the new word was too successful. Maggie journalists, and the public who like vague words almost as much as they like purple pills, started to use tabloid to describe athletics, dehydrated foods, short book reviews, sermons, epics, dramas, opinions, advice, wisdom, religion, and more commonly, condensed and highly coloured newspapers that purported to compress all you needed to know in a form that could be digested with a single swallow, and without thought.

Wellcome was indignant that others were stealing his word. In the famous Tabloid Case of 1903 he secured his company's exclusive right to use the word. And a fat lot of good it did him. There is no copyright or trademark legislation that can prevent us using words as we want, thank God. The trademarks department, trying to be helpful, suggested to the newspaper proprietors that they should use the phrase "nutshell newspaper" to describe a tabloid. It was short, alliterative, and pretty. Other suggestions made were "miniature", "pocket-size", "concise", "concentrated", and "bijou". None of them caught on, of course.

Let us not go tabloid. You should be ashamed of looking at the trash. But the evolution of tabloid from proprietary trademark to common adjective is an encouraging example of the way that language works.



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IN OFFICE - OR IN POWER?

Mr Lawson's first budget has boosted morale at Westminster and is likely to have done the same trick for the Tory faithful who assemble today at the Conservative Central Council in Birmingham. But long before this Government seeks a new verdict at the polls the 1984 Budget will have become so many footnotes in the Taxes Act. It will be the public's attitude to the Government as a whole, and its likely success or failure in meeting their aspirations, which will influence the verdict then. On that criterion, this month's good cheer presents a false picture.

The surprisingly innovative character of the budget cannot conceal the lack of progress in this Government's original intention to reduce the role of the state in people's lives. The message of the 1979 manifesto was that the state takes too much of the nation's resources, and that its share must be steadily reduced. It was then taking 40 per cent; today it takes 43 per cent. At the end of this parliament, in spite of all the big talk by ministers, and the persistent clamour of pressure groups complaining about deprivation, the Government will be lucky if it has struggled back to the figure it inherited in 1979. The proportion of income taxed in Labour's last year was 34 per cent, it is now 39 per cent and only expected to come down to 36 per cent in 1988. The drive to shrink the appetite of the great spending departments has lost its sense of urgency.

When the Prime Minister was tackled about this on television she expressed hope that more could be done, but no conviction. Where is a conviction politician without conviction? It is not as though that hope is even shared by the Treasury, which plans only to hold rather

than to reduce public spending. The horizon has receded.

The case for reduction of state spending is not primarily an economic one. It springs from a central philosophical conviction that the citizen is the best judge - and certainly better than the bureaucrats - of how and where to spend his money. Ministers need to be constantly reminded of that philosophical foundation for their policies, before they succumb to the distractions of office and become glorified bureaucrats themselves.

Is this Government in office or in power? The question goes to the heart of the strategy to be pursued now, and it should be lobbied at ministers repeatedly from the floor of today's meeting of the Central Council. If they are content to be in office they will not like to encourage fundamental questions about the role of state spending in the last quarter of the twentieth century. The blandness of last week's green paper on the subject does not augur well for a lively public debate in which ministers have to be seen to address themselves to painful questions.

The other side of the state spending question is the need to eliminate the paternalist bias in the taxation system. At least the budget has made an impressive start dismantling some of these anomalies, both in the personal sector and in cutting back the thickets of industrial allowances. It is a very modest start however, and the great bureaucratic mountains still stand solidly in the path of this Government. Those mountains must be moved. There will always be some disagreement about where lies the precise boundary of public goods which can be financed only through the taxation system rather than through personal choice. But what is surely undeniable is that any and every kind of public spending is

based on an acceptance of some diminution of personal choice in the matter, in favour of a general good provided for by taxation. We need to hear ministers more persistently questioning whether that general good is actually as good in its results as it is claimed to be.

The major achievement of Mrs Thatcher's first government was that it brought down the rate of inflation. It only managed to do so because the reduction in inflation was a paramount objective to which all else was subordinated. There is no such paramountcy now about the Government's commitment to get the state off people's backs. So the state will stay where it is, on the backs of the people.

The Government has been intimidated by the clamour of vested interests. Ministers are frightened that any attempt to open up the debate about health, welfare or that vast range of social, industrial, agricultural and overseas subsidies which spread out like economic treacle from Whitehall will upset too many pressure groups all at the same time. After five years in office they seem to prefer a quiet life; but it is not a new problem. Seventy years ago A. V. Dicey wrote: "The beneficial effect of state intervention... is direct, immediate and, so to speak, visible, whilst its evil effects are gradual and indirect and lie out of sight... State help kills self-help."

At Birmingham today ministers should throw away their departmental briefs and reassure their listeners that they are still fighting for the individual against the collectivist and corporatist apparatus over which they preside, and some more detailed questions will be asked on this page before the Prime Minister's summing up tomorrow.

IRELAND'S BOTTOM LINE

It was uncharacteristic of Dr FitzGerald to flounce out of the European Council, winding it if not disrupting its proceedings. He is known as a rational politician, willing on all occasions to argue everything through. He is also known as a Community man. He won golden opinions when his country was in the chair and he was its foreign minister. If there is an Irish word for *communautaire* it belongs to Dr FitzGerald. To have imported the manners of a Gromyko into the intimacy of a European summit he must have been under extreme pressure. The pressure arises from the political power of his farmers (common to other heads of government in the Ten) and the importance of milk in his country's economy (unique to Ireland).

The dairying sector contributes nearly 10 per cent of Irish national output. The proposed new milk regime for the CAP would mean a cut of 25 per cent in Ireland's anticipated output in 1984. That is three times as severe as the cut across the Community as a whole because of fast expansion of herds and yields starting from a low base.

Dr FitzGerald has stumped the capitals of Europe in recent months explaining that the continuing expansion of the dairying sector of Irish agriculture is a vital national interest and that he intended to treat it as

such in negotiations. Ireland needed and deserved exemption or derogation from the proposed ceiling on production. It needed it because of the exceptional importance of that activity in the Irish economy. It deserved it because of Ireland's long subservience to Britain's policy of cheap food and deficiency payments for (British) farmers, which depressed Irish farm prices and inhibited the expansion of agricultural production, especially dairying which soil and climate combine to favour in that temperate island.

Ireland's economic calculation on joining the EEC was that what it lost from the exposure of its protected indigenous industry to free competition it would more than make up for in the longer run from the prospective expansion of Irish agriculture in the Community context. Its industry was duly clobbered, and it is now told that the expansion, which has gone some way, has to stop in respect of the commodity with the greatest productive potential. It feels aggrieved.

Though his country is a financial beneficiary of the Community by a large margin, the Irish Prime Minister made some impression on his fellow prime ministers with whom he pleaded his case. M. Mitterrand in the chair on Tuesday proposed the compromise of a temporary dispensation allowing Ireland a 5 per cent increase in

milk production in 1984 over 1983 reviewable after one year. This was abruptly rejected by Britain and Holland. At that point Dr FitzGerald walked out.

Jealously watched by its own farmers the British Government has been wholly unsympathetic to the Irish case. That is a mistake. In the give and take of the adjustment of national interest within the Community the peculiar importance of milk to Ireland requires recognition. That recognition might have procured a modicum of support for Mrs Thatcher's budgetary stance just when she needed it most. In rearranging its hand for the next round the Government should weigh the advantage of looking more positively on its neighbour's predicament, always provided that anything done for the Republic is matched for Northern Ireland by the Community's regional mechanisms.

The fact remains however that it is Ireland's misfortune, or miscalculation, that it has invested much effort and more hope in the production of something which is in chronic surplus in Europe, with a shrinking market and weak export potential. Special dispensation from the CAP rules should either be on the basis of planned specialization of production, which would be sensible but hard to get agreed, or be in the form of transitional help to allow Irish farmers to redirect their efforts.

CRY SCANDAL

The Bishop of Winchester was not to be envied, faced with a report from one of his incumbents that scandal had broken out in the village of Poulner concerning the wife of a local curate and deputy churchwarden. He was to be envied less still when the decision he gave, that they be excluded from Holy Communion, became public knowledge. It was apparently not what he ordered that he has since expressed his confidence in the clergyman who, his publication was necessary, and issued a public statement himself confirming and explaining his original decision.

The rubric to the Book of Common Prayer, Order for the Administration of Holy Communion, on which the present Canon Law on the point is based, seems to give authority for such rulings, technically known as "lesser excommunications", being made public "if any of those be an open and notorious liver... so that the congregation be thereby offended, the curate, having knowledge thereof, shall call upon him and advise him, that in any wise he presume not to come to the Lord's Table, until he hath openly declared himself to have truly repented and amended his former naughty life, that the congregation may thereby be satisfied... It seems reasonable that a

public scandal should require an equally public remedy. In this age of mass communication, however, undreamt of in 1662 when that rubric was authorized, it would be unrealistic to believe that only "the congregation" will have heard of it. Scandal expands to fill all the space available, of its nature, and the church operates in front of an audience of national opinion, often to its considerable benefit; and therefore those outside the immediate congregation, in a case like this one, will hear of it, and with concern.

It can fairly be asked whether justice has been done, and whether it has been seen to be done; and the answer at least to the latter is not satisfactory. Two people have been deprived of their good name, and bear the unusual and notorious stigma of public excommunication, but without due process. "The church would be failing its members if it allowed any of them to imagine that they could do a serious and public wrong and yet remain in good standing," the Bishop of Winchester explained in his statement. That would have been satisfied by a private word from the parish clergy, and it has not been suggested that the two people concerned would have defied it.

The church, in the person of the bishop and of the incumbent, felt that something stronger was called for, surprisingly because one of the parties was a clergyman's wife. So the bishop made a formal ruling under Canon Law.

It is a coincidence that the same bishop, Dr John Taylor, was recently urging the General Synod of the Church of England to relax its prohibition on the remarriage of divorcees in church. It is relevant to note that many divorces start with adultery, and that some clergymen (and their wives) are not much less inclined to that sin than the rest of society. So why single out a clergyman's wife and not the others? Perhaps an inadvertent result of the uncertainty in the church over divorce and remarriage in church is that some members may have concluded that adultery is less of a sin than it was, not even a sufficient sin to deter an approach to the altar rail. If that was what worried the bishop he could have said so in a general way, dealing with a specific case in what the Roman Catholic Church calls "the internal forum". The church would be very unwise to try to put that point across by making a public example of invidiously selected and identifiable individuals.

Race to nowhere in technology?

From Mr Graham Chainey
Sir, You report (March 19) Sir Douglas Hague, Chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, as expressing a threat to universities from the "information revolution" which, he says, will allow students in future to acquire their education at home via computers and video recorders.

You similarly report Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, as attacking the "winning cultural pessimism" of his people (who have apparently become increasingly disenchanted with the value of technology), in contrast to "the vision of a high-technology society opening up unimagined possibilities" enjoyed by the Americans and Japanese.

"Green ideologists" and those who think like them preach fear of life, fear of technology and fear of the future," says Herr Genscher, and calls for the establishment of elite universities specializing in micro-electronics and biotechnology (reports, March 19 and 20).

Such utterances are typical of modern technocratic leaders. Neither shows any conception of what universities are or should be. "Information" is not learning, and "information technology" cannot replace (or comprise) a university. What does pose a threat to universities is the increasing belief, propagated by governments, industry and the communications media, that information is learning.

"Green ideologists", on the other hand, so far from preaching fear of life, preach fear of the devaluation of life caused by ever greater reliance on ever more dangerous technological structures.

Governments necessarily perceive everything economically: new technology means new industry means improved balances of payments. They measure standards of living only in monetary terms.

There are other values at stake. The achievements of the technological part of man's mind are often in themselves admirable, but always meaningless if divorced from the imaginative and humanistic part of his mind.

While governments would have us believe, as they hope us into a technological race to nowhere, that a nation is as good as the technology it possesses, in fact technology is only as good as those who use it.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINNEY,
47 St Barnabas Road,
Cambridge,
March 20.

Recruitment sources

From Mr Michael Clark and Dr William Gosling

Sir, You report in your issue of March 8 the view of the Institute of Manpower Studies that employers still look to "traditional sources of recruitment" in seeking highly qualified technical personnel for the information technology industry. We wonder what has led the institute's researchers to this quite inaccurate view.

In the information technology industry we are acutely aware of the difficulty in recruiting people with the right talents and training to fill the staffing needs that we foresee. Already we experience a shortage of highly qualified graduate-level specialists in electronics, systems and software technologies.

How could we afford to overlook any possible source of people with this background, however unconventional, when we are already obliged to scour the world for recruits of this kind, seeking them in Australia, Canada and Italy, to name but a few countries most recently involved?

There can be no doubt that achieving the necessary improvement in supply of highly qualified people will demand increased entry of women into this class of employment, where they are woefully under-represented at the moment. Adaptability of the career pattern to the particular needs of women is a feature of our industry; for instance, we are now conducting an exciting trial programme employing as programmers women at home with their babies.

It is the lack of realisation by parents and particularly teachers in schools that information technology offers worthwhile and rewarding careers for girls which is the principal bar to progress.

Finally, if the institute propose to take us to task about the employment of women, ought they not first to consider whether their own name does not have what the Americans would describe as a "sexist dimension"?

We are, Sir, yours etc,
MICHAEL CLARK,
WILLIAM GOSLING,
The Plessey Company plc,
Millbank Tower,
21-24 Millbank, SW1,
March 8.

Medical manpower

From Dr John Ball

Sir, At a time of increasing discussion, both in Parliament and in the press, on the crisis in our health service, it seems strangely unfashionable to promote the successes of general practice.

Yet the facts are there. Britain is fortunate to enjoy a general practice which provides a unique, community-based service, flexible enough to take into account the differing needs of patients. This service is maintained despite an expenditure which has been halved from over 10 per cent of the total NHS budget in 1950 to around 5 per cent now.

In this period, general practice has only grown by a third of the rate in other NHS sectors. Nevertheless, general practitioners treat over nine tenths of all episodes of ill health

Defects of unified defence system

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, In his letter to you (March 20), commenting on your leader of March 16 about the Secretary of State for Defence's proposals for reorganization of the Central Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin puts down an important warning marker in his statement that "the single Service Chiefs of Staff must, of course, be left with adequate staffs of their own to fulfil their responsibilities as the professional heads of their Services and to enable them to contribute considered advice to the CDS on matters of strategy and defence policy".

The "consultative proposals" recently made by the Defence Secretary would appear to deprive them of that and relegate them to the task of routine management of their Services, the shape, size and equipment of which would have been decided by a joint-Service staff, responsible to CDS personally, not to the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

That concept, put forward by Lord Mountbatten in a memorandum dated October 9, 1962, was not accepted by the Government of the time, headed by the Earl of Stockton.

Following the Ismay-Jacob report of February 1963 (which has never been made public on the grounds that it was "advice to ministers"), the organization, which has functioned generally satisfactorily for the last 20 years, was established on the lines laid down in the White Paper, *Central Organization for Defence* (Cmd 2097) in July, 1963. Modifications, including the recent one mentioned by Lord Lewin, have been made since then, the most important being the establishment of the Procurement Executive, recommended by Lord Rayner.

To revert now to Lord Mountbatten's original proposal could do untold harm. Supporters of it stress the need for "functional" organization and the requirement to separate responsibility for policy from that for management. The principal "functions" of the Armed Forces are to operate respectively at sea, on land and in the air. Although these functions overlap, particularly in the air, they are more basic than other "functional" divisions and an organization which recognizes that is the soundest and the most truly functional.

It is a serious error to imagine that policy and management are two different functions. They are inextricably intertwined. Policy that takes no account of the intricate details involved in management will be divorced from reality and will fail the ultimate test - participation in active operations - just as management which takes no account of policy will be wasted effort.

Speed limit on lorries

From Mr J. R. Lucas

Sir, The Government's argument that speed limits need to be "realistic" is surely misconceived. If coaches, or lorries go too fast, and put lives at risk, the right course is to enforce the speed limit, not to raise it.

It would be quite easy to enforce the speed limit, if the tachographs were modified so that if the vehicle exceeded a pre-assigned speed, a light would flash, and the horn sound intermittently.

The driver could select the speed, 30, 40 or 50 mph, which would then be shown on an illuminated panel at the front and rear. Anybody then could see what maximum speed was in operation, and whether the vehicle was exceeding it.

There would need to be four offences, laid down by law:

- (1) It would be an offence to drive a lorry or coach along a road with the maximum set above the speed limit on that stretch of road.
- (2) It would be an offence to drive a lorry or coach with the maximum set above the speed limit for that type of vehicle.
- (3) It would be an offence to drive a lorry or coach at a speed greater than the pre-assigned maximum.
- (4) It would be a serious offence, punishable perhaps by having the vehicle impounded, to drive a vehicle in which the apparatus was not working properly.

Shock tactics

From Mr David Charles-Edwards

Sir, Caroline Moorehead (feature, March 12), in charting "the inexorable growth of international terrorism", repeats an appalling and common piece of media doublethink: "The terrorists need that brutality: as the public has become inured to the destruction of empty buildings, so deaths have become important to ensure publicity."

What is appalling is the unquestioning implication that publicity is determined by public attitudes rather than editorial policy.

That all human beings need attention is a cornerstone of counselling. Those with strong political or religious views will, in particular, seek public as well as

and there is good evidence that their service is cost-effective.

We know the majority of our patients would rather be treated in the community with the benefits of being in the familiar circumstances of the surgery with easy access to the GP and other health-care professionals. We plan to expand general practice in order to provide an increasing range of services for our patients.

The NHS faces two options - we can either close services or we can redevelop the way care is provided to get the best from each sector. What is needed now is a fundamental reassessment of health-care provision so we can aim to transfer the balance of care into the community.

At a time of limited NHS resources it makes sense to shift resources from the hospital sector the work which does not require their very special facilities. This includes

There is no argument about the need to concentrate responsibility for the conduct of operations under CDS. What is at stake is the highly complicated and sensitive business of balancing all the factors which affect the operational capability of the Forces.

There must be central assessment and direction of the general balance between the effort to be devoted to our contribution to Nato and to other commitments; and, within Nato, to maritime warfare, land/air warfare on the Continent and home defence, including air defence; but, within that global central allocation of priorities and resources, the single Service machinery is best qualified to balance all the different factors affecting the effort to be provided by its Service: to determine what weapons systems and organization are required, how many units there should be, how they should be organized, equipped, trained and accommodated - all within the financial resources made available from a central allocation and within the manpower which can be recruited and retained content and efficient, in the Service.

It is a permanent balancing act, highly sensitive to a large number of factors, which can only be accurately assessed as a result of accumulated experience and contact with the grass roots. That experience and contact lies within the single Services.

If policy decisions are made on the basis of other advice: of bright ideas, thought up by civil servants or officers with no expertise of the subject, they are liable to be bad decisions, however acceptable they may be to the Treasury or for political purposes.

The "consultation", which the Defence Secretary's proposals are intended to initiate, must concentrate on just what functions, now performed by the naval, general and air staffs, should be transferred to the Central Defence Staff.

That transfer must not deprive the single Service Chiefs of Staff of their ability to balance all the factors affecting the efficiency of their Services and to give their advice to the CDS on that basis. When their advice conflicts, as it often will, it is for the CDS, advised by his central staff, to sort the conflict out in consultation with his colleagues.

The best solutions are more often found as a result of conflict between experts, responsible for the execution of those solutions, than out of compromise between people who have no real knowledge of nor stake in the issue.

Yours truly,
CARVER,
House of Lords,
March 21.

The first three of these provisions would be very easy to enforce, because no special equipment would be required. Drivers would be correspondingly inclined to observe speed limits with the same care as they do in America.

Only the last would be difficult to enforce. But a vehicle that had been tampered with would be at risk all the time, not only when it was actually exceeding the speed limit. And this in itself would be a powerful incentive to keep the law.

Yours etc,
J. R. LUCAS,
Merton College,
Oxford,
March 12.

Cost of policing pits

From Mr F. L. Aburrow

Sir, With reference to the report in your issue of March 20, the enormous cost of policing the miners' pickets over the past week should not be borne by the ratepayers or the Government.

The whole cost should be charged to the NUM and collected through the High Court if necessary.

Yours faithfully,
F. L. ABURROW,
Higwell House,
50 Western Elms Avenue,
Reading,
Berkshire,
March 21.

Credit to the Poles

From Mr Peter Calvocoressi

Sir, Mr Mieczkowski (March 17) does his country a disservice with his moody complaint of a conspiracy of silence about the Polish contribution to the breaking of Enigma codes. One gets a little tired of this sort of thing.

A number of books, including my own, have expatiated on the Polish achievement. The facts, all on public record, are that the Poles were the first to crack Enigma; that they were then aided by German elaboration of the machine; that on the eve of war they told all they knew to the French and British secret services; and that this information was valuable to the Bletchley Park cryptographers.

The one moot point is - how valuable? According to the best qualified judges it accelerated the British breaking of Enigma by perhaps a year. The British did not adopt the Polish techniques but they were enlightened by them.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CALVOCORESSI,
1 Queens Parade,
Bath,
Avon,
March 16.

activities such as minor surgery. Such a policy would free hospitals to concentrate their valuable resources on those patients most in need of their specialised skills.

We have seen the beginnings of a trend to shift the responsibility for patients on to general practitioners; what we now need is a planned commitment to build up our community services coupled with resources to carry this out.

The imposition of cuts on general practice would contradict any move to improve the base of health care in this country.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BALL, Chairman,
General Medical Services Committee,
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1,
March 20.

Sites ravaged in greed for gold

From the President of the Council for British Archaeology

Sir, With Easter approaching some sweet-toothed *Times* readers may feel egged on by a promotional campaign, organised on behalf of a well-known chocolate manufacturer, to venture into the countryside in search of buried golden treasure.

The clues to this treasure are contained in a booklet which has been leading would-be treasure seekers to dig up the ground on and around many of England's best known, archaeological sites, such as the Rollright Stones, the Stannon Circle, near Rough Tor, the Hurlers, near Minions, the Merry Maidens, St Piran's oratory and church near Perran Porth and the chapel and holy well at Sarned. These sites are all scheduled ancient monuments whose protection is fragile at the best of times.

The promoters of this particular publicity stunt state in their literature that none of the treasure is to be found on archaeological sites, but evidently the clues are somewhat ambiguous.

The damage to some of the sites may be incalculable, both in terms of actual physical damage and, perhaps more important in the long term, in influencing people's attitudes towards the preservation of archaeological sites.

We have already witnessed the quest for the golden hare and now the search for the golden eggs. Soon no doubt the hunt for the golden Easter bunny will be initiated. Is it too much to hope that in future the promoters of such campaigns will not thoughtlessly let loose this form of unwarranted attack on our past?

Yours faithfully,
TOM HASSALL, President,
Council for British Archaeology,
112 Kennington Road, SE11,
March 19.

Changes in procedure

From the Secretary of the National Association of Local Councils

Sir, Any organisation which, like this association, is concerned with getting changes in the law in the interests of communities or the removal of legal anomalies, must welcome the prospect of the new Commons select committee looking generally at the methods by which the House settles the final texts of legislation, and in particular at a timetable device to ensure proper scrutiny of details as well as debate on general principles.

I am only too well aware of the constitutional implications for Oppositions if it becomes automatic practice to timetable Bills from the start, but it is equally important to have regard to the public interest the details of its subject.

Legislative time in Parliament is scarce and precious: changes in procedures which use that time more effectively are to be welcomed. But would procedural changes suffice? My experience in considering the whole process from Government proposals, through the Bills and the amendments, on to the Acts and then in advising member councils on the effects of new laws suggest that the form of legislation ought also to be reviewed.

It is really logical to start an Act with two or three sections of general principles and then have 20 or so sections of substantial pieces of law but criss-crossed into a dozen closely printed Schedules at the end?

Law-making in that fashion means that all the energy and skill goes on the earlier parts of an Act whilst the details, which are important and which need careful attention, are dealt with at the end of the process when, especially in a long and hard fought Committee, people must be sick and tired of the very sight of the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CLARK, Secretary,
The National Association of Local Councils,
108 Great Russell Street, WC1,
March 14.

Cooling-off time

From Mr R. J. Dörner

Sir, Anybody who hopes to avoid VAT on his takeaway food by waiting until it has cooled to below room temperature, as you report the Customs and Excise saying (March 21), has a long way ahead of him if the food is not in a refrigerator.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. DÖRNER,
3 Crane Grove, N7,
March 22.

A SPECIAL REPORT

Turkey

After successfully crushing political terrorism, the Turkish armed forces have returned to barracks, and once more the country is ruled by a civilian government. But does the present parliament accurately mirror the nation's political preferences? Peter Hopkirk reports from Ankara

C Misgivings over the legitimacy of Turkey's new parliament, whose election was masterminded last November by the retiring military government, may be resolved this weekend when 19 million voters go once more to the polls.

Although these are only local elections, the stakes are high, and the results of Sunday's vote could well lead to demands for an early general election. For the outcome, it is argued, will reflect not merely the electorate's stand on local issues, but the nation's true political preferences.

When Turkey went to the polls in November, many critics charged that the election was little more than a sham. For the National Security Council – the military government headed by General Kenan Evren – had sole say over which individuals and which parties could contest it.

Not only were all the old-guard politicians banned from taking part, but only three parties were allowed to compete for the 400 seats in the new Grand National Assembly. Among individuals excluded were two former prime ministers, Süleyman Demirel and Bulent Ecevit, who are accused by the military of creating the situation, through irresponsibility when in power, which led to the overthrow of the last civilian government in September 1980.

Eleven political parties were also vetoed by the military from contesting the election – and very nearly a twelfth one, the newly-formed Motherland Party of Turgut Ozal, who is today Turkey's Prime Minister. He was only allowed to stand because the military were confident that he stood no hope against the two other competing parties, both of which had their blessing.

In the event the outcome was

the very opposite of what the generals had expected. Their own favourite, the centre-right Nationalist Democracy Party, was beaten humbly into third place.

Their other choice, the centre-left Populist Party, ran second, while victory – with an overall majority – went to Ozal's conservative Motherland Party.

But despite this unexpected result, critics both inside and outside Turkey claimed that the new parliament had not been democratically elected, because of the voters' severely restricted choice. French socialists in the Council of Europe, who wanted to keep Turkey's representatives out, immediately denounced the newly elected Grand National Assembly as a "so-called parliament".

This Sunday, however, electors will have a considerably wider choice, with the entry into the arena of three new political parties which were banned from contesting the general election. Already there are claims that because of this, Turkey's true opposition lies outside parliament.

Certainly the opinion polls suggest that on Sunday two of these three new parties – the moderate-left Social Democracy Party, and the conservative Right Way Party – are likely to rob the two parliamentary opposition parties of much of their support, and even Turgut Ozal of some of his.

In the highly unlikely event of Ozal's Motherland Party being defeated in the local elections, there would be immediate demands for an early general election, despite his present working majority in the Grand National Assembly and the fact that his administration has still five more years to run. Such demands may follow anyway if, as seems certain, the two parliamentary opposition parties are badly beaten by the extra-parliamentary Right Way and Social Democracy parties.

Because Turks know that they are voting for more than

just local issues on Sunday, the campaign is being fought every bit as fiercely as if it was a general election.

The BBC Turkish service will be using a computer in its London studios on Sunday evening to analyse the first returns and project the likely outcome, which will be beamed to its listeners in Turkey. The BBC team did this at the time of the Turkish general election, producing a surprisingly accurate forecast of the number of seats Ozal would win.

The reason for Ozal's success in the general election springs from his almost legendary reputation as an economic guru. Now 56, he first demonstrated his wizardry to the nation through the monetarist policies he applied so successfully as Turkey's economic supremo between 1980 and 1982. As head of the State Planning Organisation, and later as deputy prime minister under the junta (the only minister they coopted from the civilian government they overthrew), this former World Bank executive saved the country from economic collapse.

But following a banking crash, for which he was not directly responsible, he resigned from the government. With his

TURKEY FACTSHEET

Head of State: President Kenan Evren
Prime Minister: Turgut Ozal
Capital: Ankara
Area: 301,000 square miles
Population: 46 million
Rate of exchange £1 = TL 456.78

departure, however, the economy once more began to sink. During the general election campaign (despite a televised warning by General Evren, by then the country's President, that Ozal was not the man to

lead Turkey) he managed to convince electors that he could transform the economy, given a full term of office in which to do so.

Sunday's elections come too soon for voters to be able to judge whether Ozal's Thatcher-type economic policies have begun to work. Most observers feel that this will not become discernible until the summer, although Ozal has set about his task with vigour, drastically wielding his knife in Ankara's equivalent of Whitehall.

This involves the dismantling of several ministries and the setting up of a triumvirate,

headed by himself, to tackle the country's economic ills. His first priorities are to cut inflation, currently running at nearly 40 per cent, lower taxes, drastically reduce red tape and boost exports. He is deeply committed to private enterprise and to reducing the state's traditional economic role to the minimum.

His critics warn that his free-market policies will destroy the Turkish economy, arguing that similar strategies have failed in other developing countries. Ozal, however, denies that he is a conventional monetarist, claiming that his programme is designed around the "con-

ditions and aspirations of Turkish society."

He argues that Kemal Ataturk "hoped that the state enterprises he started would be sold to the people", but died before this could be accomplished, and no one had attempted it since. Ozal also has ambitions of turning Turkey, which is primarily an agricultural country, into what he calls the grain store of the Middle East. "If others have oil, we have food", he says. "And food is more important than oil."

Other economic targets include "doubling or tripling" Turkey's trade with the Arab world, which at one time

Eastern vigil. Turkish ski-troops on winter manoeuvres on the Soviet frontier. After distinguishing themselves in the Korean War, the 570,000-strong armed forces now play a crucial role in Nato's defence plans.

formed part of her huge empire. Once the Iran-Iraq war is over, Ozal sees a substantial rise in the volume of trade with these two potentially rich neighbours, not to say in reconstruction work for Turkey's enterprising contractors and hard-working labour force. However, despite the criticism Turkey faces from Europe, particularly over her human rights record, Ozal denies any backing away from her desire for eventual EEC membership.

Although politically speaking the military have now returned to barracks, martial law still remains in 54 of Turkey's 67 provinces.

Inevitably there is widespread speculation in both political and diplomatic circles over who has the last word in government, Turgut Ozal as Prime Minister, or Kenan Evren as President. The general view is that Evren, despite his suspicion of Ozal's economic policies, is prepared to let him have his way, while Ozal has so far avoided any confrontation with Evren over matters of internal security.

Ozal has been accused of lack of concern over Turkey's poor human rights record, including the widespread and continuing use of torture. Such talk, especially when it comes from the French who, the Turks point out, used torture in Algeria, angers Ankara. Some foreign diplomats even believe it to be counter-productive. But it may well be that Ozal feels he needs to strengthen his hand politically before taking on the military over issues they still consider to be their preserve.

Meanwhile, at least 20,000 men and women remain in prison, either under investigation, awaiting trial, on trial, or serving terms for political offences.

Peter Hopkirk

Standing guard over the crucial oil routes

Turkey holds the key to the defensive posture of Nato in the Eastern Mediterranean. It shares with Norway the doubtful distinction of being the only Nato country to have a common land border with the Soviet Union – in Turkey's case, one more than 400 kilometres long.

It also stands as the guardian of the narrow sea passages which link the Black Sea to the

Mediterranean, control of which would be critical in any head-on military confrontation with the Warsaw Pact.

The West still relies heavily on oil which has to cross the Mediterranean – there are said to be 300-400 tankers in the Mediterranean on a typical day – and one of the primary strategic objectives of Nato must always be to preserve freedom of navigation for these

and other vessels. In a conflict this would become much more difficult if Russia were able to sail its Black Sea fleet through the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara and out into the Mediterranean.

In its north-western corner, in Thrace, where Turkey shares a frontier with Bulgaria, there is some attractive terrain for tank fighting which might well invite a thrust to

secure the Sea of Marmara.

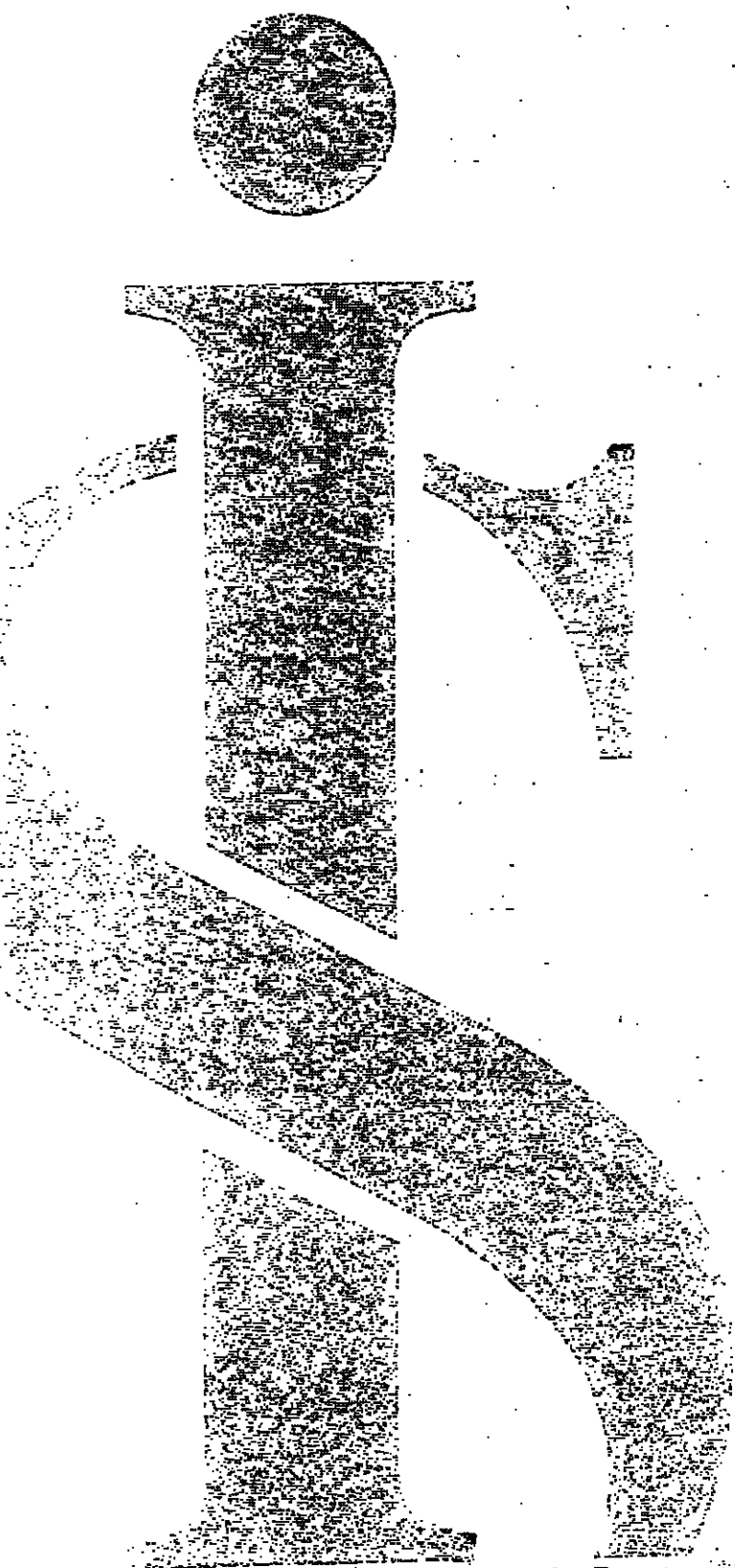
In this respect, Turkey's importance in Nato's thinking will be enhanced if the agreement for the United States to close its bases in Greece by 1989 takes effect.

But important though it is, the sea route to the Mediterranean is not the only feature which gives Turkey strategic importance. In its eastern hinterland it lies between the

Soviet Union and both Iraq and Syria, and thus astride possible overland routes to the Gulf and the Mediterranean.

Its position is not made any easier by the fact that its southern neighbours – Iran, Iraq and Syria – though not threatening, are at best either of uncertain stability or doubtful in their attitudes to the West.

These factors have been continued on page 18



BUSINESS

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We are the first Turkish bank to be included in the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agencies list of banks whose letters of guarantee are acceptable. And the first and only to get an IFC loan. We are represented in the boardrooms of major

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İŞ BANK
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İş pronounced as in Turkish, means business.

Suspensions that won't go away



A new sense of confidence has underpinned Turkish foreign policy since the Ozal government took office last December. In part, this is attributable to the prospect of continued economic recovery, but increasingly it stems from a firm conviction that Turkey is the most stable nation in an increasingly unstable corner of the world.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal emphasised this when he declared in January that "a strong Turkey is a positive element for peace and stability in the region." The government acknowledges that part of this strength stems from Turkey's membership of the Atlantic Alliance, but it remains the most independent of all members of Nato; the country least likely to trim its policies to suit its allies.

A dramatic expansion in trade links with its Muslim neighbours is increasingly reflected in foreign policy. Officially, Ankara remains uncommitted in the Iran-Iraq war, and indeed the former military government tried to mediate in the dispute. But while Turkey continues to protest its neutrality in the dispute through its trade talks with Iran, it is more and more being forced to take Iraq's side in military matters.

In late January, when a high level Iraqi defence delegation visited Ankara, Turkey was reported to have provided assurances that it would send troops to northern Iraq to safeguard the flow of oil along Iraq's sole remaining external pipeline in the event of any major Iranian breakthrough on that front.

And again, when President Evren held talks in Saudi Arabia in February, the head of state and chief of the armed forces stressed Turkey's ability to play a military role in assuring the retention of the present balance of power in the mountainous regions where the Arab world borders Iran and Turkey, and almost seems to touch the Soviet Union.



Turkey's leaders, left: Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister, and leader of the Motherland Party. Right: retired General Kenan Evren, former head of the National Security Council, now the President.

The shadows of history are all too evident where Turkish relations with the Soviet Union are concerned. Perhaps more than any other nation in the world, the Turks regard the Soviet Union as essentially a continuation of Tsarist Russia, still bent on imperialism and aggrandisement at Turkish expense.

It was only during the last left-of-centre government under Bulent Ecevit, from 1978-79, that this suspicion of Moscow was officially lifted to any significant extent. There is a certain amount of economic cooperation with this northern neighbour - a common dam is being built along their border near the Black Sea - but Turkey largely remains a member of Nato because of an ingrained scepticism of Moscow's peaceable intentions, fuelled by more than three centuries of war and struggle for control of the Balkans and Caucasus.

Turkish membership of Nato has not prevented it from being at odds with its geographically closest Nato ally, Greece. Indeed to describe the two



nations as allies sometimes seems laughable. Since coming to office, Ozal has tried to ease the tension, saying that Ankara was determined to extend the hand of friendship to Athens.

Athens did not reach out to grasp Ozal's hand; the "important questions" remained too important for that. Top of the list of issues dividing the two countries is Cyprus.

Turkey continues to provide almost the sole external support provided for the "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus," supplying it with around 60 per cent of its budget and protecting it with some 20,000 of its best soldiers. A troop reduction operation by Turkey in Cyprus this year has failed to convince Athens that the Turks are prepared to talk seriously about the re-establishment of a single government in Cyprus.

It is not simply that the Turks have a moral commitment to the Turkish Cypriots every bit as strong - if not stronger - than that of the Greeks to the Greek Cypriots. It is that Turkey increasingly feels that its policy in Cyprus has already to a large

extent succeeded in ensuring that whatever settlement is eventually reached, it will give the Turkish community greater autonomy than might generally be expected in a country in which they comprise only 18 per cent of the population.

In addition, Turkey has done this without alienating its most important ally, the United States. It has long been argued that the most powerful foreign policy lobby in Washington after the Israelis was that of the Greeks.

This may no longer be the case. Last month President Reagan decisively broke with tradition when he announced plans to provide Turkey with almost twice as much military and economic aid as Greece. Turkey would get \$934m to Greece's \$501m - a major break with past practice under which Greece received seven dollars worth of aid for every 10 dollars allocated to Turkey.

This record proposed disbursement - exceeded only in the region by proposed disbursement to Israel and Egypt - illustrates the importance Washington attaches to Turkey's role in the area.

But if Turkey looks to the West for arms, it remains highly sceptical of western attitudes on such key political issues as civil rights and economic liberalization. Demands by West European governments and parliamentarians that Turkey should halt all political trials and release political prisoners have been met by assertions, both under the military and Ozal, that such issues are purely domestic and not for discussion.

Turkey is nonetheless sensitive to such charges. The continued freezing of a five-year \$550m aid agreement with the European Community, which should have gone into effect more than two years ago, causes problems for the economy and hurts Ankara politically. The Turks would love to see the freeze ended, but do not yet seem prepared to make the political concessions which the EEC requires in return.

John Roberts

Middle East Economics Digest

THE REFUGEES

'Send us somewhere cool...'

by Shirin Akiner

More than 4,000 Central Asians - Uzbeks, Turkmen, Kirghiz and Kazakhs - are settling down to a new life in Turkey. It is the end of an exodus that began over 60 years ago, when the emirate of Bukhara became a Soviet state, causing thousands of its subjects to flee to other countries.

Most went to Afghanistan and for them the events of 1979 were like the repeat of an old nightmare. As Soviet troops moved in, the Central Asians again abandoned their homes and went south. They joined the three million-odd refugees in the camps that sprawl across northern Pakistan.

In addition to the unaccustomed heat and hardships of refugee life, they had another problem. Unlike the Afghans and Pakistanis, they are of Turkic origin and as a minority within a minority, they felt acutely isolated. "Send us somewhere cool, where they speak our language," they begged. "Here we will die."

They were becoming desperate when help arrived suddenly and unexpectedly. General Kenan Evren, the Turkish President, hearing of their plight during his state visit to Pakistan in 1982, invited them to settle in Turkey.

The refugees, who learned of his offer through the BBC Persian service, flocked to the registration centres. Inevitably there was much confusion and many arrived too late.

It was a very real homecoming for though the Turks and Central Asians have had little direct contact for centuries, they share a keen awareness of their common Turkic ancestry.

The Government conferred immediate Turkish citizenship

on the newcomers, giving them food, clothing, medical care and a small monthly allowance. It also provided them with temporary accommodation while permanent homes were being built.

Particular care was given to the choice of compatible environments for the Central Asians are not a homogenous group. More than half are Uzbeks and like a warm climate, so they have been settled in southern Turkey. The Kirghiz, used to the bitter cold of the Pamirs, have been sent to the bleakly beautiful mountains near Lake Van.

Central Anatolia was chosen as the home for the Kazakhs and the Turkmen. For the latter it is a peculiarly happy coincidence, for they have now returned to Tokat, once a stronghold of their direct forebears, the Seljuks, who ruled Anatolia 900 years ago.

Hardest for the women

More than £20m has been spent on the new arrivals. The Turks hope that they, like the many other immigrants who have come to Turkey over the years, will soon become fully integrated. Not surprisingly though, there are problems of adaptation.

It is hardest for the women, who are used to a life very different from that of their Turkish sisters. Most observe strict purdah (prohibited in Turkey) and scarcely ever

venture out of doors. Yet there is little comfort for them at home, for they are still bewildered by their new, European-style houses, quite unlike anything they knew before.

The government realises that education is the key factor in the process of adjustment and have made it a priority.

Teachers provide classes for young and old alike. As soon as the children are confident enough in Turkish, they are sent to local schools.

Their rapid progress is encouraging, but it also indicates a weakening of their original cultural identity. This is a pity, but it is a natural consequence of the time spent in Afghanistan. There the Central Asians were linguistically and culturally so heavily influenced by their neighbours that they felt themselves to be in a cultural no-man's land, having lost a past and not yet gained a future.

Now they believe their salvation lies in looking ahead to becoming Turkish, rather

than in looking back to what they once were. Dr. Akiner was consultant for the film *A Man Without a Horse*, shown on BBC 2 on March 16, which traced the journey of a Turkmen family from Pakistan to Turkey.

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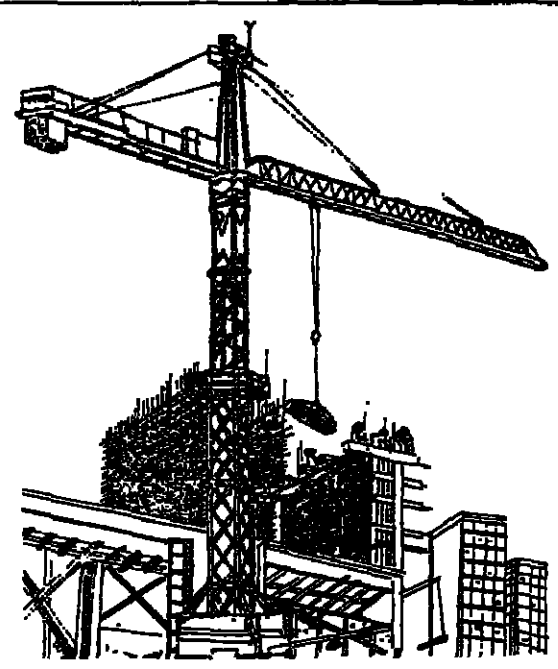
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THE ECONOMY

Will the surgeon's knife work the second time?

Last November the electorate decided that Turgut Ozal would be Turkey's most effective economic surgeon. They elected him to continue the operation he started in 1980-82 to reestablish Turkish credit in the eyes and purses of the world and to remove the country from the threat of bankruptcy.

In the eighteen months between his resignation in mid-1982 as deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Organisation (SPO) the patient again showed signs of relapse. Growth in gap last year is estimated at 3.2 per cent compared with 4.4 per cent and 4.2 per cent for the two previous years. Hence Mr Ozal's mandate for ambitious economic change.

Since the 1920s Turkey has zigzagged between the principles of intervention and laissez faire. Ataturk maintained the Ottoman tradition of letting the state do all - etatism. In the 1960s the country turned to laissez faire. In the 1970s back to etatism and industrialization based on the home market, despite oil price rises.

The bureaucracy has been characterised by its suspicion of foreigners - known as the Capitulations complex from the system that protected foreigners in the Ottoman Empire. It is a complex Mr Ozal and his technocrat colleagues are determined to change.

By 1979 oil prices, etatism and internal anarchy had brought the country to the edge of bankruptcy, one of the first countries to tumble under its debt load. In 1980 the military stepped in as guardians of the constitution. They had no choice but to give Mr Ozal a free rein as head of the SPO. The changes he has introduced since December - particularly the relaxation of foreign exchange controls and the liberalization of imports - are a continuation of his earlier policies.

A tight monetary squeeze from 1980 to 1982 dramatically improved the country's debt position for short-term as well as medium and long-term borrowing. An IMF standby agreement was renewed last July, underlining Turkish creditworthiness in the Euro-markets. Foreign debt repayment should be down to \$1.8bn by 1985.

International optimism about Turkish prospects accounts for the relative speed in the underwriting of the new \$300m Euroloan which should be signed this month.

Much of the economy falls in the realm of wide-ranging state economic enterprises which have many of the ailments of monopolies. Price supports and controls have sustained strong domestic demand for goods which could have been exported. Private enterprise was cocooned by import substitution policies and the discouragement of foreign investment by red tape.

Turkey is remarkably, admirably self-sufficient, industrially as well as agriculturally, and is likely to remain so; certainly the freeing of imports has been half-hearted so far and local industry deserves some protection. But the economy is still dependent on IMF standby credit and can only meet IMF targets by export expansion. That needs foreign



Harsh line on prices

credit, injected primarily into the agricultural sector.

Mr Ozal's task has been compared with Mrs Thatcher's in 1980/81 - reducing the size of the public sector and the rate of inflation. He has already introduced heavy price increases in fuel and essential services and cut the support price for tobacco - a harsh sentence on the 400,000 families in the business.

At the end of February the government won authorisation to sell shares of state enterprises to the private sector - the Bosphorus Bridge is rumoured to be a possibility, and certain state enterprises - but generally he is likely to shake out rather than off. Growth must come from private enterprise.

Turkey lacks Britain's major bonus - oil. The country has to import 80 per cent of its energy, amounting to 40 per cent of the import bill in 1982, though this is also a measure of how successful import substitution has been with other commodities.

Domestic oil production came to around 42,000 b/d in 1983 and will decline further in the foreseeable future. Foreign credit is essential to the various energy projects - nuclear, hydro and lignum - that will improve the balance and fuel the growth.

Imports, which had shown a slight dip in 1982, rose by around 5% to an estimated \$9.2 bn in 1983. Exports totalled \$5.8 bn in 1983, compared with

\$5.7 bn in 1982, not quite 2% growth (compared with 22% in 1981). Imports, which had shown a slight dip in 1982, rose by around 5% to an estimated \$9.2 bn in 1983. Exports totalled \$5.8 bn in 1983, compared with \$5.7 bn in 1982, not quite 2% growth (compared with 22% in 1981).

due to bad harvests, world recession and the situation in Iraq, one of Turkey's main markets. Turkey manages a neat balancing act between the two. Exports are expected to rise again this year perhaps to as much as \$6.5 bn, well over the 10% growth required by the IMF to safeguard debt repayment, and would be helped by further devaluation of the lira. Worker remittances, a major source of foreign exchange, were also down by nearly 25% due to falling numbers in West Germany. But this may be made up increasingly by workers in the Middle East: 200,000 are in Saudi Arabia alone.

Turks talk a lot about the Middle East these days. Mr Ozal is a devout Muslim but it is his economic rather than religious principles that take him and his colleagues to the Arab world. The Arabs have some traditional reservations about the Turks but "they like our style", said a director of Enka, Turkey's largest construction company with many contracts in the area.

Exports there have risen from \$350m in 1980 to \$2.1 bn in 1982. Arab banks and development funds are also being tempted to look at Turkey's needs.

For the time being the Middle East is more of a preoccupation (and certainly an easier market to handle, despite competition) than the EEC with whom relations have been frosty due to disagreement over Turkey's textile exports. Under the terms of Turkey's association agreement it can apply for full membership in 1987, but there is a substantial body of opinion that remains to be convinced of the advantages - quite apart from opinion within the EEC.

Despite the optimism of export-oriented circles many problems remain. "Whether he succeeds or not, Mr Ozal has pioneered certain principles which haven't been seen for 30 years," said an ex-business associate of the Prime Minister's.

Sarah Searight



Slippery catch: in one of Istanbul's many fish markets, Turkey hopes to become a major food supplier to the oil-rich Arab states

Changing the face of the Arab world

In the last three years, the expansion of Turkish contractors into the Middle East has made them a major force. Their geographical proximity, and because they can import an entirely Muslim workforce, gives them an edge over many competitors, particularly in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

More than 150,000 workers from more than 250 Turkish companies are estimated to be working in Middle East markets, mostly in Libya and Saudi Arabia, but with a substantial minority in Iraq. Their work is valued at about \$15,000m.

Observers say that far too many contractors have been licensed to work abroad, and the government has taken steps to impose controls on overseas work. Payment delays have

caused problems in Libya, which has forced Ankara to accept barter deals in oil, and bankers are worried that some contractors are overreaching themselves to get a foothold in Saudi Arabia by preparing themselves for losses on their first job.

CONSTRUCTION

South Korean construction companies burnt their fingers badly in the 1970s through suicidal pricing policies and held rounds of talks with their Turkish counterparts last December about joint ventures in the Middle East and North Africa to reduce competition between them.

In the same month a Saudi team arrived in Ankara for talks about investing in a number of

ambitious construction projects in Turkey, notably the Ataturk dam, the Karakaya dam, a second Bosphorus bridge and a 10-year highway master plan to improve major road links between Europe and Asia.

The \$1500m Ataturk dam, which Sermet Pasin, the Minister of State for Foreign Economic Relations in the last government, claimed will "change the face of Turkey", is the most controversial.

President Kenan Evren laid the foundation stone last November for what will be the largest of five dams on the Turkish Euphrates.

Although the World Bank has refused to contribute to the dam, substantial other funds have been forthcoming.

Geoffrey Weston

AGRICULTURE

The supermarket of the region

Turkish farmers have come into their own as the backbone of the Turkish economy - rightly so since there are around 27 million of them (60 per cent of the population). Throughout the 1960s and 1970s the industrialist and his labour force were supposed to raise the economy to European levels.

Now the Turkish businessman is turning agriculturalist to convince the foreign investor, as he himself has been convinced, of the country's enormous agricultural potential - not a field to attract much overseas capital in the past.

It is a more realistic ambition than the industrial one, although the country's achievements there are impressive. Turkey prides itself on being one of only six countries in the world which is self-sufficient in food. It is also said to throw away more food than most.

Agriculture has been well protected by price and crop subsidies and accounted for 22 per cent of GDP in 1982 and 29 per cent of exports, though that figure fell in 1983 due mainly to bad harvests. This year there has been just enough rain to ensure a reasonable harvest.

The main agricultural areas at present are the shores of the Aegean, the Cilician plain, northern Thrace and the shores of the Black Sea. The main cash crops have been tobacco (earning \$350m in 1982, mainly from the US), cereals, cotton and hazelnuts (from the Black Sea). Other crops include wheat (staple crop and staple diet), pulses, citrus and other fruit.

Cotton and citrus are well developed on the Cilician plain, fruit and vegetables (in particular early vegetables for Europe, under plastic) round the Aegean, oilseeds in Thrace. For the time being it is in these areas that any expansion will be seen.

This expansion, primarily in exports, is aimed at the Middle East. Turkish agricultural produce is now only 2.9 per cent of Middle East food imports, worth \$735m in 1982, but "Turkey will be the supermarket of the Middle East", according to Mr Ali Kocman whose Kocugir company has begun investing in agriculture. "After all, we're a lot closer than our rivals".

Iran and Iraq are regarded as better markets - the diet is similar, the populations larger - than the Gulf where the competition is fiercest.

Now that the Turkish businessman has turned to the

fields he is full of investment ideas. Both the Americans and West Germans have organized conferences between their own nationals and Turkish companies in the field and a US mission to Turkey last year was shown a wide range of export-oriented projects looking for foreign capital. They ranged from processed and dried foods, fish breeding, seedlings and seeds, dairy - the list a macabre reflection of our eating habits as well as a symptom of the enthusiasm of this new generation of farmers.

American investors are reported to be interested in such extensions of Turkish produce as breakfast foods and fast foods; they are already investing in tobacco (Rothmans and soon Philip Morris; Chesterfield and Camel absorb most of the US), and have been advising on soybean production. A London Chamber of Commerce mission going to Turkey in May contains several firms interested in food processing. Government approval for any scheme will depend on its export potential.

Most processing and packaging are popular ventures. Kocugir is into chicken farming and another large business company, Yasar Holdings, is setting up a TL4 bn integrated feed mill, slaughter house and meat processing yard at Izmir. Consultants for the project are Union International, a member of the Vestey group, and it will initially process 222,000 animals a year, aiming at \$8m in exports.

The International Finance Corporation lent \$4m towards the project and it has benefited from government incentives.

The enthusiasm and optimism behind these ventures can't disguise the fact that problems remain. Vast areas of so-called arable land are difficult to work on a large scale and are subject to the long, bitter winters of Anatolia.

On the other hand the hard-working Turkish farmer is regarded as an excellent bet and Mr Ozal's government is bulldozing aside the bureaucratic stumbling blocks. The new Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hâsân Doğan, is a close colleague of Mr Ozal's and a member of his "inner cabinet", ventures have been assured of an easy passage though it's too soon to say how far this sense of drive will percolate through the ranks.

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BALANCE SHEET (in Thousands of Turkish Lira)		
	Unaudited Results to June 30, 1983	For the year ended December 31, 1982
ASSETS		
Cash and due from banks	8,272,807	17,997,966
Reserve deposits at Central Bank	6,081,448	6,737,077
Bills discounted	89,628	114,924
Government bonds	57,202	557,202
Loans:		
Short-term	26,816,259	25,398,070
Medium-term	6,078,448	3,005,716
	32,894,707	28,403,786
Less: Allowance for possible losses	(1,451,117)	(802,013)
	31,443,590	27,601,773
Equity participations	965,427	964,486
Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, net	1,040,085	967,197
Central Bank imports and other blocked accounts	1,315,563	1,198,184
Accrued income and other assets	8,766,687	5,678,604
	58,032,437	61,817,413
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Deposits:		
Demand deposits	13,337,627	16,333,566
Commercial	1,592,624	7,118,197
Interbank	1,096,826	495,894
Savings and other		
Time deposits		
Savings and certificates of deposits	10,795,212	19,422,616
Interbank	341,439	343,170
	27,163,728	43,713,443
Borrowed funds from banks	7,166,700	5,556,174
Import advances taken	10,407,123	2,824,550
Payment orders at Central Bank	469,915	475,866
Accrued interest and other liabilities	7,524,541	5,406,741
Taxation:		
On income	963,502	651,662
Other	378,800	633,698
Total liabilities	54,074,309	59,062,134
Shareholders' equity:		
Share capital	2,242,510	1,665,010
Revaluation surplus	215,620	215,619
Retained earnings	1,499,998	874,650
Total shareholders' equity	3,958,128	2,755,279
	58,032,437	61,817,413

TURKEY

Keeping an eye on the birds...



Three thousand buzzards, 2,000 lesser spotted eagles, 100 levan sparrowhawks and ten other species of birds of prey, not to mention black and white storks - these are the kind of numbers of soaring birds you can expect to see in a single day on the Bosphorus in late September.

All are migrants heading south to Africa to spend the winter. The best viewing spots - the tops of the Camlica Hills

- are easily reached by bus or taxi from the town of Uskudar. Autumn is really the only time to witness these spectacular movements and choosing the time of your visit depends on your tastes. The end of August and beginning of September sees the largest numbers but fewer varieties. Then in the course of a fortnight you could expect to see more than 150,000 white storks and perhaps 6,000 honey buzzards. Mid-September is the time for the gnat-like flocks of levan sparrowhawks, while late September and early October

produces the most variety: eagles in particular are then passing in strength. At this time the neighbouring woodland abounds with collared, spotted and red-breasted flycatchers, while the dazzling blue sky is the foraging ground for huge chattering flocks of the alpine swifts which nest in the ancient city.

When I am asked: "I want to go birdwatching in Turkey - where and when should I go?", the Bosphorus in autumn is an obvious suggestion. However, May on the southern edge of the Sea of Marmara provides one of

the best introductions to the country birdlife.

Probably the best place to head for is Manyas Golu which has now been appropriately renamed Kus Golu (Bird Lake). Here lies one of Turkey's only national parks for birds - Kus Cenneti. Nestling on the northern edge of the lake it consists of expanses of reeds and, most important, a flooded willow wood in which herons, little egrets, spoonbills, pygmy cormorants and dalmatian pelicans build their nests.

In April and May the wood is alive with activity and noise and an observation tower allows excellent views of parent birds flying to and fro bringing fish for their hungry broods. In the numerous holes in the old and misshapen willows, brightly coloured rollers nest while Spanish sparrows make use of the understructure of the herons' nests to build their own - as many as six pairs of sparrows to a single nest.

After a day or two at the Kus Cenneti - camping or staying in the neighbouring village of Sigirci - you may want to move on. For contrast, take the chair lift from the town of Bursa up Ulu Dag (the old Mount Olympus) to the snow line for some of the high mountain specialities. Here among the boulders, snow patches and alpine meadows can be found shore larks, water pipits, black redstarts and occasionally alpine accentors. Overhead a golden eagle may soar and there is a good chance of seeing the rare lammergeier or bearded vulture.

There are a number of other good birdwatching spots nearby. The many lakes, marshes, mountains, woodlands, scrub-covered slopes and rocky coastlines of Western Turkey will keep the most active birdwatcher happy for a month or more.

If you want to travel, the choice is endless. Tuz Golu of the Sultan Marshes for flamingos, ruddy shelduck and sand plovers, the Taurus Mountains for snowcock and wall creepers, and Pontic Mountains for green warblers or perhaps Birecik for the rare bald ibis.

Birecik is a small Asian town on the edge of the Euphrates. On the white cliffs on which it is built is a small colony of bald ibis, one of the world's most endangered species. Despite ardent protection, only a few pairs remain and perhaps its position as an emblem of the Turkish Wildlife Protection Society is its only assurance of posterity.

If you don't wish to journey alone there are a number of firms now organising birdwatching tours to Turkey. Full details can be obtained from the



Little egrets, one of the highlights of Lake Manyas, and right, the gentle-looking *kurt-kopegi* that can kill a wolf in seconds.

mingos, ruddy shelduck and sand plovers, the Taurus Mountains for snowcock and wall creepers, and Pontic Mountains for green warblers or perhaps Birecik for the rare bald ibis.

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the Turkish Tourist Office in London.

Richard Porter

The author works for the RSPB and is chairman of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East.

Recommended reading:

A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe by Peterson, Mountford and Holom (Collins); The Birds of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East by Henzel, Fitter and Parslow (Collins); Let's look at North-West Turkey (22.80 incl. postage) from Ornithologists, 1-3 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

... and wolves

In the mountains of Eastern Turkey a ferocious war is waged each winter between packs of hungry wolves and a fierce type of dog specially trained to kill them.

The marauding wolves are driven down onto the plains in search of food by heavy falls of snow, attacking flocks of sheep, and people unwise enough to venture unarmed and alone between remote villages.

The flocks are guarded by huge sheepdogs with long and vicious iron spikes on their collars to protect them from the wolves' fangs. But fierce and alarming as these dogs may seem to visitors, they are no match for a pack of wolves.

It is here that the deadly *kurt-kopegi*, or "wolf dogs", are brought into the battle. Looking nothing like an Alsatian, these creatures can kill a wolf in seconds. Somewhat smaller than the sheepdogs with which they work, they have outsize jaws and powerful chests. Each village has two or three of them, trained from puppyhood not to fear wolves.

At the small village of Patnos, north of Lake Van, the local expert on these four-legged killers told me: "They are like Exocet missiles. Released into a pack of wolves, one of them will kill up to half a dozen."

Police who had witnessed it, told me about a bizarre contest which the villagers had staged the previous week. They had matched a captured wolf first against a large sheepdog and then against a *kurt-kopegi*. The sheepdog, they said, took one look at the wolf and fled. But when the other dog was confronted with the wolf, the fight was over in seconds. "It went straight for the wolf's throat and tore it out", a policeman told me.

Wolves, he said, were nonetheless a serious menace in winter. When they came upon a man walking alone, several would take up position around him and kick snow in his face

with their hind legs. Then, while their victim was momentarily blinded, they would go in for the kill.

"But if the man is armed, and is quick enough to shoot one of his attackers," the policeman told me, "then its companions will immediately turn on it and devour it."

As I was under arrest at the time - it turned out to be a mistake - this somewhat bizarre information provided a welcome diversion.

At the town of Agri, which was under deep snow, police warned me not to get out of my car on the remote roads for fear of being attacked by wolves, while outside shops at Erzurum I saw the skins of freshly-killed wolves and bears hanging up for sale. These, I was told, had been shot in the snow, close to the town. The furs cost from 200 upwards.

Another curious inhabitant of Eastern Turkey is the semi-legendary "swimming cat" from the Lake Van region. These small, fluffy creatures, with grey eyes and the other blue, will dive into a stream and bring out a fish when hungry. But stories of their prowess in the water have, like other fishermen's tales, grown somewhat in the telling. One British tourist operator's brochure: "fishermen would-be travellers to Van that they might well see the cats swimming in the lake. This, say locals, is absurd."

Yet the owner of one of these cats living in the Home Counties had to return it to its breeder, for every day it would remove one of his neighbour's prize goldfish from the pool in his garden.

The Van cats have been successfully bred in Britain by two women who, in 1962, drove to Eastern Turkey to capture specimens after permission from the military to enter this then closed region.

Peter Hopkirk

Guarding the oil routes

nations, most notably the United States, in their relations with the two countries.

This was reflected in 1982 and again last year in the fact that proved impossible to devise military exercises which could accommodate the sensitivities of both nations.

Turkey maintains about 570,000 personnel in its armed forces and has the second largest army in Nato with a strength of 470,000. Its expenditure on defence as a proportion of gross domestic product is the third highest in Nato, behind

only the United States and Greece, but because it is a poor country the actual number of dollars spent per head is the lowest for any Nato country.

This is reflected in the fact that much of the equipment of its armed forces is now seriously out of date. Though Turkey has 3,500 tanks nearly all of them are obsolescent as are the bulk of its 350 fighter aircraft. Whether in tanks, aircraft or ships the Turks would find themselves heavily outgunned not only in quantity but also in quality in any

conflict with the Warsaw Pact.

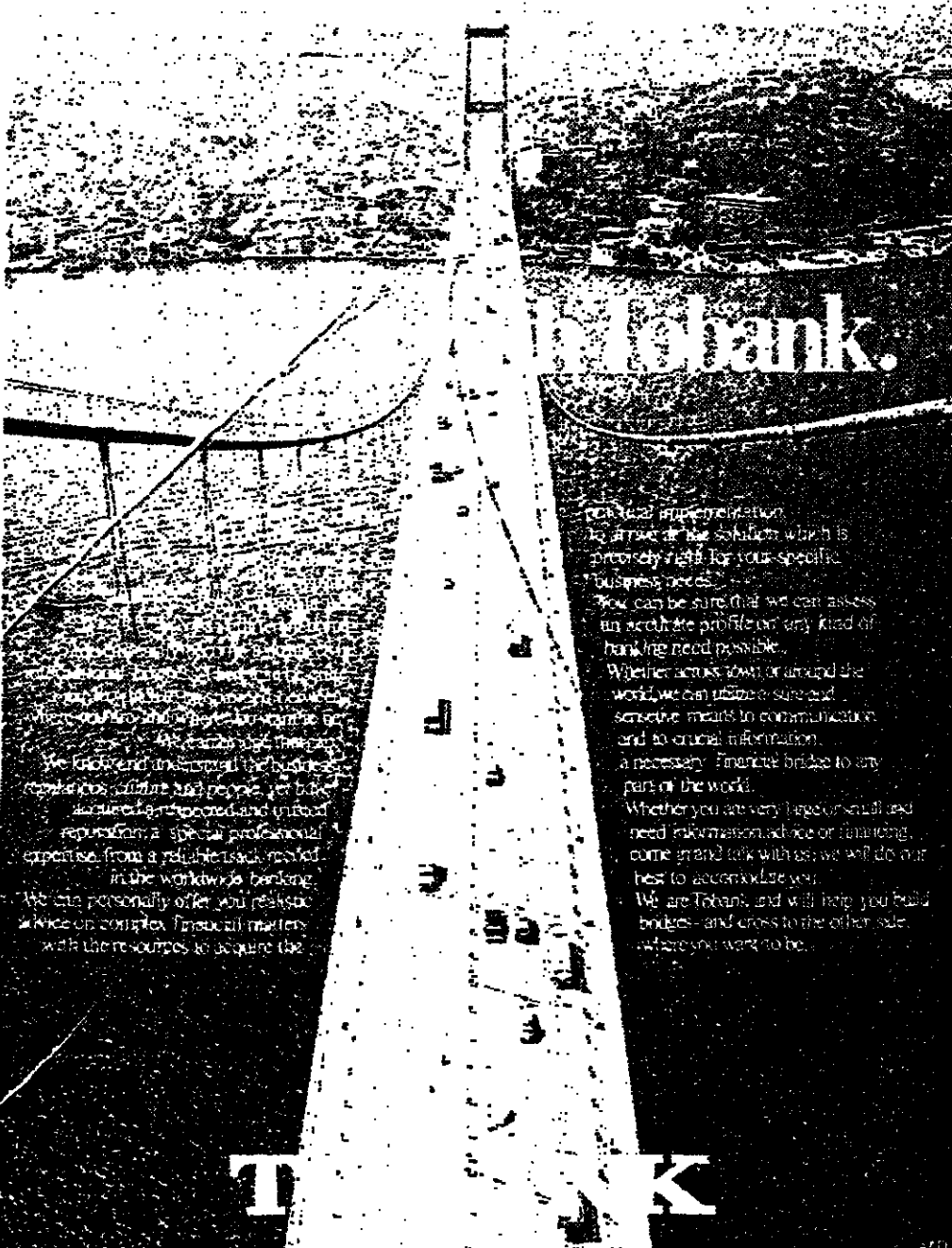
There is also considerable concern about the inadequacy of its radar cover and of its communications systems. It is commonly estimated that it would require spending of the order of \$15,000m over a couple of decades to re-equip the Turkish forces.

A start has been made in this process of modernization. Turkey has Leopard tanks on order from West Germany, and in December agreement was reached to build in Turkey American F-16 fighter jets. This

\$4,000m deal will not be completed until the mid 1990s. Meanwhile air defences are also being improved through the spending of £150m on Rapier surface to air missiles from Britain, and there are also four frigates on order from West Germany.

Much of this modernization is being financed with aid from the United States, and to a much smaller extent from West Germany, but here also the bad relations between Greece and Turkey mean that the provision of aid has to be handled with extreme delicacy.

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Defence Correspondent



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Eating out: look first, taste after



Istanbul abounds with restaurants. The Golden Horn is famous for its many small fish *lokantas*



One of the pleasures of visiting Turkey is that some of the really important sightseeing can be done at meal-times. Not only is there a tradition of eating well outside the home, but there are different traditions for the four or five basic types of restaurant. Each has its own culture, specialties and etiquette.

Underlying the variety of this gastronomic heritage is the reliance on fresh and seasonal produce simply cooked. This makes Turkish food immediately appealing to foreign palates. Visitors can rely on what they see and what they smell.

The most attractive kebab restaurants are those in which the way the food is prepared proclaims a loyalty to the proprietor's place of origin. This is shown in a clever variation to a standard dish or a regional specialty served one day a week (perhaps *menet*, a Turkish ravioli topped with yoghurt, garlic and oil) or special ingredients brought in from a relative's farm.

The simplest and cheapest of Turkish restaurants are called *lokantas* and serve the kind of foods people cook at home. The easiest way to order, as in most Turkish restaurants, is to go to the kitchen and choose.

Tomatoes provide the basic liquid in which vegetables simmer. Trays of aubergines and other vegetables cook with meat. Haricot beans cooked in tomato are a soupy side dish or a topping for plain rice. Fresh,

crusty bread accompanies the meal and it is unusual to drink anything other than water, although a small glass of dark tea will be brought afterwards from a nearby tea house.

It is the more expensive *lokantas*, serving braised meats, seasoned rice dishes and wonderful cold vegetables cooked in olive oil, that are most endangered by competition from the kebab or straightforward western menus.

Patissieries owned by Greeks and Armenians, or restaurants run by White Russians, have an established place in Istanbul's gastronomic memory.

The *mahallebici* is an enduring tradition. This is a shop that serves milky puddings, Turkish sweets and savoury dishes of boiled chicken, eggs, or *su böreği* (a kind of "noodle pudding"). To the Turkish taste, alcohol and sugar do not mix and the atmosphere of a *mahallebici* is correspondingly wholesome. There is something virtuous about eating a rich baklava cooked in butter and stuffed with pistachios or walnuts.

The scenes in a *mahallebici* are correspondingly pure. Lycée students may finger with a text book over a *tarak göğüşü*, a milk pudding actually made with chicken. It has a gooey, grainy texture and can be delicious, particularly when it becomes *kazan dibi*, named after the bottom of the pot where the sweet gets a caramelized coating.

The *mahallebici* may be the only place a courting couple from conservative families can see each other to hold hands, or where a girl can feel safe to date

a man she does not know very well. The menu of dairy and very sweet pastries mirrors this atmosphere of innocence.

Tea, not alcohol, is the commodore social drink in Turkey so the *meyhane*, where people go to drink, always has a more bohemian atmosphere than most pubs or cafes. Friendships are lubricated by sharing food as well as drink, and plates of different *meze* (hors d'oeuvres) cover the table: fried mussels, green almonds, *pastirma* - a dried garlicky meat, stained red with paprika. Salty

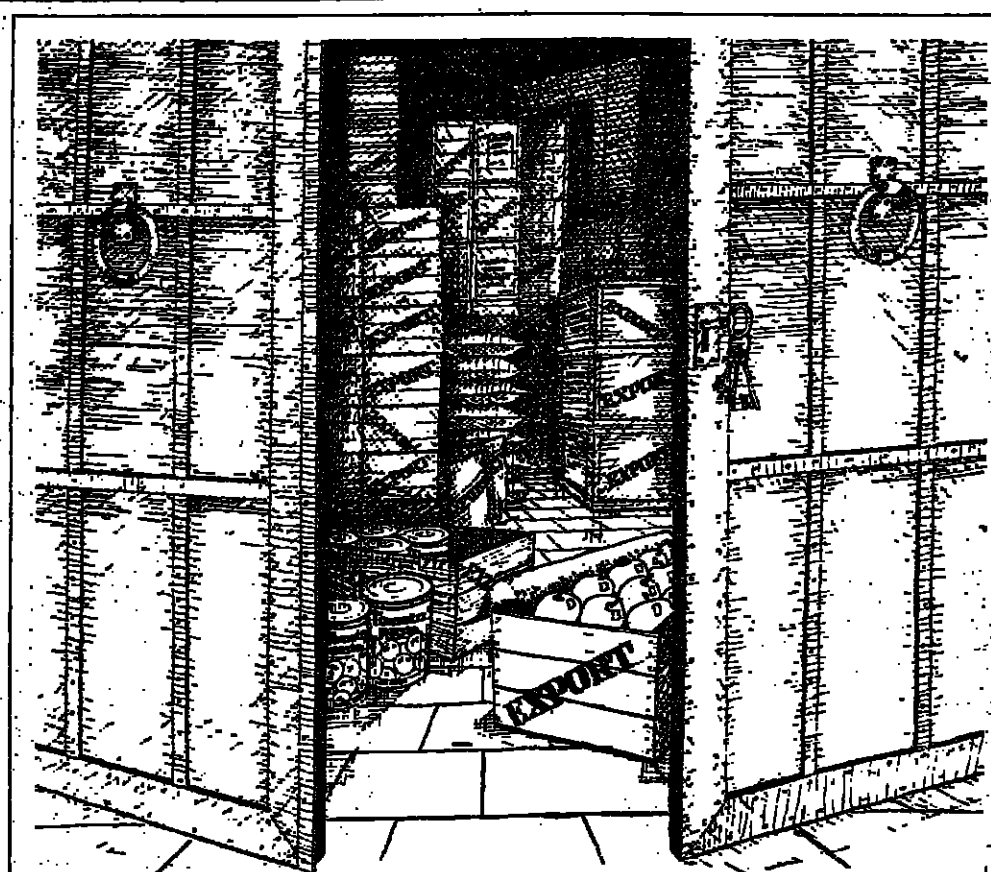
white cheese and sweet melon go particularly well with rakı, an anis drink, the mainstay of the Turkish philosophical temperament.

The vulgarisation of the *meyhane* is the *birahane*, the beer hall where customers stand to eat a large variety of snacks and drink tap lager. These are the haunts of the lone male, perhaps a new arrival in the city - the centre of the "laimeur culture", music and rockless driving.

The *meyhane* has an up-market side. In Istanbul these

are the more expensive fish restaurants on the Bosphorus and on the Sea of Marmara. Here, the ritual is to decide what to drink first. A wide array of cold *meze* is brought out for selection. Hot *mezes* are ordered - mussels in butter with garlic sauce, fried *börek* (thin pastry folded around a filling). The wise eater will save room for a piece of grilled fish, for unless he inhabits a tropical paradise or owns a Scottish loch, he is unlikely to eat better.

Andrew Finkel



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TURKEY

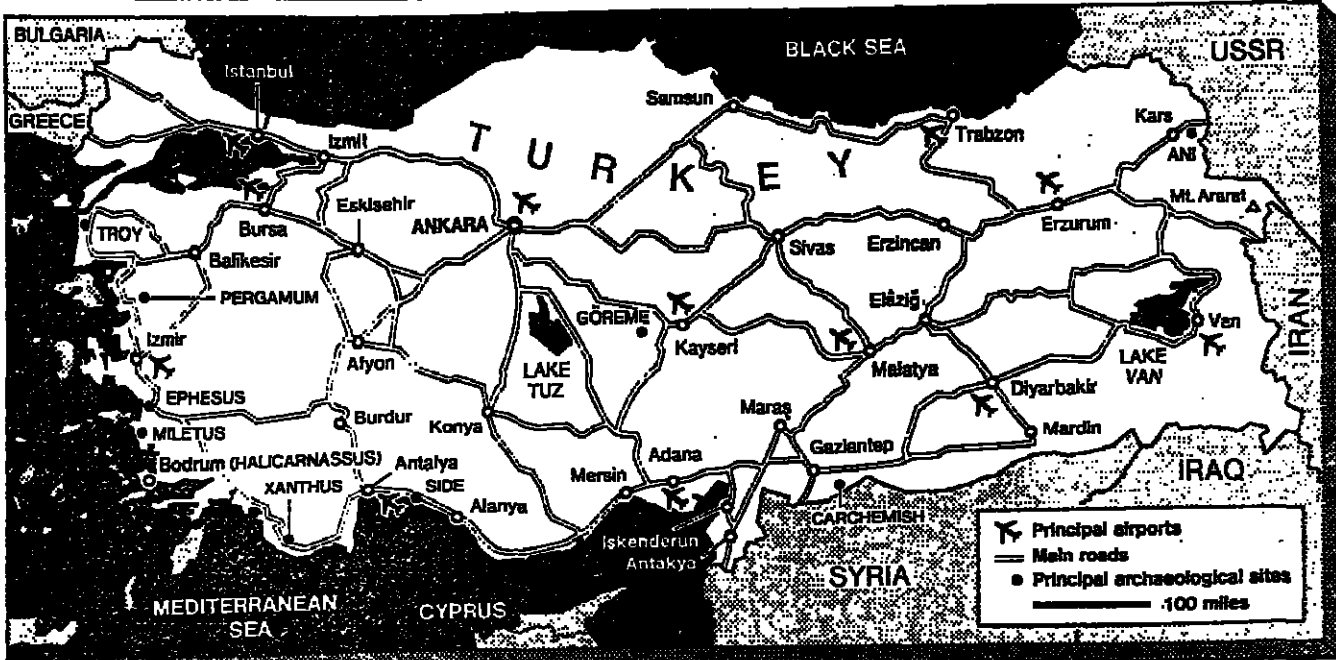
From Istanbul in the west to snow-capped Mount Ararat in the east, Turkey is one vast open-air museum, filled with the treasures and echoes of a dozen civilizations.

But that is not all. It has sunshine and sea, beaches and bazaars, spectacular scenery, and a cuisine as sublime as its architecture. Moreover, in the mighty Anatolian heartland, stretching nearly 1,000 miles from end to end, there are still wild and secret places for the adventurous to discover, especially in the little-known east where both the Tigris and Euphrates rise.

Turkey has something for almost everyone, whether archaeologist, mountaineer, plant-hunter, skier, skin-diver, steam train spotter or photographer. But those like bird-watchers, who carry binoculars and cameras into remote areas, should first check that they are not wandering into closed military zones, for Turkey has sensitive frontiers with the Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece and Bulgaria.

For the less energetic who merely wish to laze on a beach, there is the whole of the sunny southern coast, vast stretches of which are still totally deserted, if you are prepared to search them out. To the gratitude of those who return year after year, Turkey remains a largely undiscovered land, its tourism industry some 20 years behind other Mediterranean competitors.

Yet the plummeting lira has made Turkey one of the best buys anywhere for the holiday-maker. Where else can you get an excellent meal, with wine, for



A country filled with treasures from a dozen civilizations

The undiscovered land

around £2, and a hotel often for little more than twice that? Provided you keep away from Istanbul and the more popular coastal resorts, you can enjoy Turkey's monuments and sunshine for a very modest outlay, especially if travelling by rail or by the country's excellent long-distance buses.

Western Turkey, the former Asia Minor, with its world-famous sites like Troy and Ephesus, Pergamum and Aphrodisias, is too well known to need describing. However, after Istanbul - the one-time Byzantium and Constantinople, and still one of the world's most

exciting cities - western Turkey is perhaps the region which the newcomer should explore first.

But the more adventurous may like to turn to less frequented parts of Turkey, like the Black Sea coast, or the rugged and mountainous east. The best time to visit eastern Turkey, or anywhere else in Turkey for that matter, is the spring, when the hillsides are ablaze with wild flowers and the temperatures perfect.

The really intrepid, however, might like to try the winter, when the whole of the east is under deep snow, and temperatures plunge to minus 20 degrees

Fahrenheit. They will almost certainly have the place entirely to themselves. The harsher the winter, moreover, the more dramatic the scenery.

One possible itinerary (equally suitable in spring) is to fly from Istanbul or Ankara to beautiful Lake Van. From there, based on the new Akdamar Hotel, take a one-day trip by local bus down to the wild and mountainous Hakkari region, where Turkey, Iran and Iraq meet. There is a small and very modest hotel at Hakkari, but for comfort one would be advised to return to Van.

The next day, after visiting the excellent little museum, continue by bus northwards (through the snowfields in winter) towards Mount Ararat. Seats should be booked in advance, and for a magnificent view of Lake Van, with its cobalt-blue waters, choose the left-hand-side. To see Ararat stay the night at Dogubeyazit (Simer or Ararat hotels), which will involve a change of bus at the small town of Agri.

So strong is the belief that Noah's Ark came to rest there that over the years a succession of expeditions have climbed Ararat searching for the remains of this most celebrated of vessels. Endless pieces of wood have been brought down from its frozen slopes for radio-carbon testing, but none has yet been proved ancient enough to be a piece of the true Ark.

The following morning continue by bus to the old frontier town of Kars which, until 1921, was in Russian hands, as its architecture clearly shows. Like the previous day's expedition, this takes several hours and involves a change, but it comes

tantalisingly close to the Soviet frontier (the watchtowers are easily seen) and, in winter, through the most stunning snowscapes. For the best view of the frontier try to sit on the right-hand-side of the bus.

Kars is a picturesque old town, steeped in history, where during the Crimean War 15,000 Turkish troops held out for five months against 40,000 Russians. The defence was conducted by a British general, and one of his officers, Captain Teesdale, won the Victoria Cross. The ill-clad and poorly-equipped Turkish troops fought with extraordinary heroism, and smashed their muskets and wept when finally forced to surrender. Today Kars is still an important garrison town.

On arriving at Kars (Temel Hotel) apply immediately to the Emniyet, or security police, for a permit to visit ruined Ani, the ancient walled capital of the Armenians, destroyed by Tamerlane and frequent earthquakes. But there is a dramatic setting overlooking a gorge dividing Turkey from the Soviet Union, still stand numerous ruined churches, chapels and even a cathedral, all long deserted, but starkly beautiful. Because of its remoteness (a half-hour drive by taxi) it may not be possible to get there in winter, when it lies under deep snow.

After Van and Ani, head westwards to Erzurum (Polat Hotel), another town with a frontier atmosphere, where Buchan set the gripping climax of *Greenmantle* (shortly to be made into a film). As in Van and Kars, the horse and cart is still widely used, although there are



Colossal head of an Olympian god on the summit of 8,200-foot Nemrut Dag, near Malatya. Dating from the first century BC, this and four other heads originally surmounted huge, enthroned figures.

also plenty of taxis. For centuries the victim of wars and earthquakes, the mountain-ringed town still contains a number of important Seljuk and Ottoman buildings, all within walking distance. From Erzurum there is a daily flight to Ankara, one hour away.

An alternative route would be to take a boat along the Black Sea coast to Trabzon (the former Trebizond), and then a bus to Erzurum, from where you could do the journey in reverse. Equally, do one leg of the journey by train. This is slow but cheap, the express buses being much faster.

One or two final tips. If you buy your domestic air tickets locally, it is far cheaper, but flights are full and it is safer to pay in London and be sure of firm bookings. There are very few hotels of acceptable standard in the east or other remote

parts, so it is wise to book these in advance and not merely turn up hoping there will be room. The Turks themselves travel a great deal, so even in mid-winter hotels may be full. Lastly, do not be put off by the Turks' dour appearance. In some 40 visits over more than

20 years, I have never found a warmer or friendlier people.

For names of travel agents or tour operators specializing in all parts of Turkey, contact the Turkish Tourist Office, 170 Piccadilly, London (01-734 8681).

Peter Hopkirk

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سكنا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Cinema

Profound vision with the eyes of tragedy

The Dresser (PG)
Odeon Haymarket

Streamers (18)
Classic Haymarket;
Gate Notting Hill

La Balance (18)
Screen-on-the-Hill;
Classics Chelsea,
Tottenham Court Road

Uncommon Valour (18)
Plaza

The *Dresser* and *Streamers* are very different examples of how a play may be successfully translated to the screen without the kind of reconstruction and "opening up" which screenwriters used to think their duty. Ronald Harwood's 1982 play was a nostalgic tribute to a past age of theatre and to actors who were larger than life offstage as well as on. Harwood worked in Donald Wolfit's company, and when he came to write Wolfit's biography he subtitled it "His Life and Work in the Unfashionable Theatre". The portrait of the actor-manager in *The Dresser* with his constantly renewed challenge to the role of Lear, evidently owes much to this original, though one can detect hints and memories of other actors of that old school.

He is at the end of his career, but we can still see in him the trace of a lifetime of vanity, egotism, ruthlessness, dedication, bombast, magnificence and guile, and a compelling charm that has been exploited as much in his personal relationships as behind the footlights. At the moment of the action, his mind is cracking under the strains of keeping on a company in wartime conditions, of advancing age and of secret purgatories of his creative imagination and disappointed ambitions.

The play is ingeniously constructed, within the unity of a Monday night's performance of *Lear*. The falling mind is by turns cajoled, bullied and shamed out of madness, only so

that the actor may enter the grander madness of Shakespeare's King. The responsibility of bringing the old man to his senses falls to his dresser, a tipsy middle-aged queen dedicated to his shaky idol, changing his own role to suit every occasion, by turns playing nanny, confidant, doctress, spouse and drill sergeant. The whole thing is an artifice, but a calculatedly theatrical one, which proves, as effective (though more evidently so) on the screen as on the stage.

The marvel of the film, is Albert Finney's performance. It is the fruit of a role that might tempt an actor to get by with the easy superficial effect, but Finney intuits unfathomable depths. This old man really appears to have a past, a soul, secrets. By turns his mind and intellect surface into the light, wily and autocratic, and then recede again beyond pursuit; and all the coming and going are visible in his eyes. The gestures are large and theatrical, but the nuances infinite. We watch the minute processes of making up for Lear, but before our eyes the pasty mask becomes the King, with the eyes of tragedy. The man may remain comic and absurd to the end, but Finney persuades us that his Lear is truly a great performance, the culmination of an artist's life.

Tom Courtenay's performance as Norman the dresser skilfully complements Finney's part. He is a comic figure, but his inexhaustible camp repartee has a bitter edge of disappointment and loneliness. Courtenay played the role effectively in the theatre, but this may have handicapped him for the screen. Sometimes (most apparently in his final scene) the performance seems pitched more for the stage than the camera.

Around a very effective ensemble (the supporting players include Zena Walker, Eileen Atkins and Edward Fox) Peter Yates, with the aid of the Bradford Alhambra, has created a tangible sense of the backstage world of painted bricks, fire extinguishers and old rags smeared with greasepaint.

At the Cannes Film Festival the acting prize was awarded, unopposed, to an ensemble: the four young leading actors in Robert Altman's *Streamers*. The recognition was richly deserved. In *Come Back to the 5 and Dime*, Jimmy

Dean, Jimmy Dean, Altman directed an entirely female cast; here it is all male, but there is still the same complex interplay between the characters. Again the film is adapted from a play, and again Altman makes purposeful use of the single confined setting of the theatre piece to create a sense of claustrophobia.

"I did *APPROX* in 1969", says Altman, "Basically I am telling the same story but it just isn't funny any more." Three of the young men are soldiers waiting to be shipped to Vietnam in 1965, with nothing to do but hang around in barracks or get drunk or laid in town; the fourth is an interloper from another hut, whose racial and social resentments, as an underprivileged Black, are pathological. He is the catalyst to stir up the suppressed tensions between the three buddies. The synthetic comradeship of military life at once sublimates and stimulates the ordinary human processes of attraction and antagonism. The homosexual yearnings and fears of these youngsters, when subjugated, find their outlet in taunts and anger which ultimately prove deadly.

To match the text, Altman adopts a stylized method which depends on minute detail and close-up scrutiny of hands and faces and reactions. The actors respond miraculously to the demands placed on them. Most of them come from the theatre. Mitchell Lichtenstein (son of Roy), who was seen in a less rewarding role in *Lord of Discipline*, is outstanding as the Ivy League dandy, witty and articulate, defiantly flaunting his sexuality, yet in the end the most vulnerable of them all. George Dzundza and Guy Boyd, as two drunken veteran NCOs, provide a horror-comic chorus. All in the end exemplify Altman's unchanging moral view that none of us is ever what we seem, but that each is as deserving of pity.

La Balance, the second feature film by Bob Swaim, an American working in Paris, is the second most successful film in French box-office history, behind only *E.T.* The reason for its popularity is perhaps its skill in both honouring and updating all the best-loved conventions of the police thriller. At the core, though, there are the doomed, romantic



Tea, and a little sympathy, for King Lear: Albert Finney, with Tom Courtenay in the background, in *The Dresser*

couple, caught up in the webs of the underworld, who go back to the old French romantic fatalism of *Misael Carmé*.

Bob Swaim is by education an anthropologist, who worked on his doctorate with Levi-Strauss. His preparation for the film involved spending six months studying the special elite of the Parisian police, the Territorial Brigade set up to infiltrate the underworld. As he shows them in the film, they are mostly young, educated, sharp and given to wearing fashion gear and carrying transistor radios. Their principal concession to the old traditions of French police methods is reliance on informers ("La Balance" is argot for informer). Swaim's story is concerned

with the confrontations of a band of the brigade with an underworld gang led by a chilling godfather, Massina (the last, admirable, performance of the lamented Maurice Ronet). The couple caught between cops and criminals are Dede, a small-time crook (Philippe Léotard) and his mistress Nicole (Natalie Baye). Fairly indifferent to the consequences for them, the brigade coerces Dede and Nicole, by a cat-and-mouse process of blackmail, to become informers.

The narrative is circuitous, and Swaim has a liking for "naturalistic" inconsequential incidents, but *La Balance* moves with great speed, decision and discretion in handling a rather high content of

violence. A number of the roles notably Natalie Baye as a believably appealing but unglamorous tart - are intriguingly cast against type.

Uncommon Valour is a disagreeable Cold War adventure film, the story of a retired American Army colonel who takes a guerrilla force off to Vietnam to rescue GIs held in prison camps since the end of the war. His force is a very dirty half-dozen. The naive hawkishness and primitive racist attitudes of the film (scripted by John Milius and Buzz Feilshaus) is the obverse of *Streamers*. It is a pity to see a director like Ted Kotcheff and actors like Gene Hackman and Robert Stack involved in it.

David Robinson

Jazz

Perfect integration

Rivers/Ibrahim
Logan Hall

The great disappointment of the Camden Jazz Week was Max Roche's non-appearance, due to a sudden illness, on Wednesday evening. But it was to the credit of the organizers that a thoroughly worthwhile concert still took place. John Stevens said that the name of his 10-piece group, Folkus, which occupied the first half, referred to common denominators between several types of "world music". Most of it sounded like free jazz to me, though I could hear that there were other references.

Often one felt that it was a good ensemble underused. The concerted passages were simply arranged and gave little scope to such instruments as the band's flute, tuba or French horn. One such, quite near the beginning, however, was slow-moving, gently heterophonic, and quite beautiful. It is not possible to object to the many long and often unaccompanied solos, yet the powerful collec-

tive voice of Folkus should have been heard more often. In the event the great drummer was replaced, at very short notice, by the saxophonist Sam Rivers, so the duets with Abdullah Ibrahim were of an entirely different kind. First though we had solos. Mr Rivers began with an exhaustive, though not exhausting, display of the tenor saxophone's capabilities, including a perfect integration of the devices that were once thought of as "trick effects". His flute playing impressed me less, both now and later.

Mr Ibrahim gave the Logan Hall's long-suffering Steinway almost its first sensitive treatment of the week in a long piano solo that had an exceptionally wide emotional range. His singing was less well advised. When they finally got together, the finest results were in a gorgeously elaborated reading of Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood", where Mr Rivers's large yet dry tone lent the music an almost abrasively expressive edge.

Max Harrison

Rock

Julian Cope
Rock City, Nottingham

The stance of splendid isolation that Julian Cope struck on his recent *World Shut Your Mouth* album seems to have been taken literally by many of his former fan club.

A year or so back, when Cope was fronting the Teardrop Explodes, this current tour would have been packed out. That old commercial certainty has evaporated now and only the discerning few came to witness Cope's idiosyncratic talents. What the fickle missed was a diverting display of Cope's newer material, set quite casually against an extraordinary homage to the arcane psychedelic delights of maverick influences like Balloon Farm, Pere Ubu and The Crag.

Cope himself was in good form, a welcome beacon of insanity amidst the dull and worthy journeymen whose efforts bamboozle the public with alarming regularity. Switching from guitar to piano to solo microphone he conjured up a show that was as

entertaining as it was haphazard. Sadly bereft of a horn section, his new band gradually joined Cope to produce a mad acidic antidote to recent pop-neutrality.

The band began shakily with a rused version of their non-hit "Greatest and Perfection" and then relaxed sufficiently to join the singer in creating an atmosphere that crawled from the psychedelic backwaters of "Quizzmaster" to the modern possibilities of "Elegant Chaos" and "Strasbourg". The guitarist Steve Lovell provided a convincing foil to ballads like "Oh King of Chaos" and "Head Hang Low", whose moods suited Cope much better than any punk thrashes through his past.

As sickly pop routines continue to satiate the charts Cope's left field antics may only contrive to isolate him still further. He does not seem to mind and, judging by the reception Rock City's patrons gave him, neither did they. Cope's sense of humour may be as warped as his light show but he remains a captivating figure.

Max Bell

Concert

Philharmonia/Haitink
Festival Hall

Sometimes one has the feeling that Elgar's real enigma lies in whether there really exists very much of an enigma at all. He encourages, especially at anniversary time, much debate as to what his music is "about", but the proof of the pudding lies so much in the playing, and it is precisely the weight thrown on the very function of each new performance in measuring his work's worth that still leads back to the simpler question of

how well the music actually works.

For the Second Symphony, Bernard Haitink and the Philharmonia only fitfully persuaded me, or persuaded me, if you like, that it does so only fitfully. This was not Haitink's discredit. He refused any compromise solution to galvanize the choppy, irresolute making of the finale, and the opening movement, too, was denied the benefit of any implicit programme, any hint, for example, of Elgar the man burdened by greatness. Haitink's choice to carry it lightly with springing step, carefully lifting phrase and ensemble, was

surely a conscious interpretative decision.

More positively, the inner movements were a rare revelation of Elgar as orchestrator. Shaw commented somewhere on his ability to stretch every instrument to its highest efficiency, and this was heard and felt too: in the circle of horn and trombone sound Haitink drew at the beginning of the slow movement, and its long, long string crescendo, then in his turning Elgar's weak cadences to advantage, as one section tossed revitalizing fragment to another.

Elgar met Walton on Wednesday across the bridge of the latter's *Crown Imperial* coronation march, a deceptive link between two so dissimilar sensibilities, and one by which Haitink was perhaps a little too easily seduced. In the Violin Concerto, though, Salvatore Accardo found a perfect equilibrium between the sensuous and the urbane, particularly in the central Scherzo, particularly he and Haitink delighted in Walton's sophisticated artifice as in a *commedia dell'arte*, every athletic movement effortlessly tumbled and turned.

Hilary Finch

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Television

No time for judgments

Rough Justice (BBC1) returned to the case of Jack Russell, who spent seven years in jail after a false conviction for murder. The programme described the months after his release, which at first were equally disastrous. He had no possessions, no money and no home, and was forced to enter the twilight world of hostels and charity; even his claim for financial compensation was a matter for legal argument, and it is no wonder that his face is one which bitterness, or perhaps bewilderment, seems to have drained of expression. He was the subject of a television documentary - a flat was quickly found for him, and the Home Office has made a first payment of £15,000.

He is clearly an awkward and difficult man, who apparently has problems in coping with the world before his wrongful conviction. His major experience has been that of prison, and both his family and friends complained that he talked about little else. But it is not for us who watch in comfort to

pronounce judgment upon a man who has had seven years of his life taken away - he has suffered enough from judgments, in any case. Certainly he seems to be an emblem of the fact that justice is often "rough" upon those who cannot buy, or manipulate, it.

Forty Minutes (BBC 2) concerned itself with Lagan College in Belfast. *The School on the Hill* merited this treatment because it has brought together both Catholic and Protestant children, a "natural balance" in Northern Ireland although, on this side of the water, the largest proportion of school children would have no religion at all. It seems that the various churches in Northern Ireland control education, which is why Lagan College's unique experiment in the educational version of ecumenism has not yet been accepted into the state system. And yet the programme also described the high standard of education in the province - there is a paradox here that could have been explored.

One Catholic teacher, who

taught both History and Religious Education (if there is a difference), explained that the mingling of religions "contributes to the learning process" - one had to take his word for that, although the proposition would no doubt be denied in the Catholic schools of this country. The larger point - that Catholics and Protestants, by going to school together, learn how to live together - must also be taken as a hopeful prediction rather than an established certainty.

Peter Ackroyd

Opera

Juditha Triumphans
Bloomsbury Theatre

It is fairly obvious why so many baroque painters and composers were attracted to the story of Judith and Holofernes, or to those other less edifying biblical episodes that could give religious excuse for spectacles of sex and violence. There was some hope, therefore, that Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans* would turn out to be an opera nasty. But alas no, not in that sense.

In fact it is not an opera at all. Vivaldi gave it the rather glorious subtitle of "sacred military oratorio", and while it is certainly not sacred and hardly military, it does qualify as an oratorio, to the extent that it is a narrative sequence of recitatives and arias, framed by choruses and intended for concert performance. But it does no harm to stage it, since the form is practically identical to that of an opera seria of the period. And Paul Harnon's production is reasonably sensitive, except in its contention that the Assyrians went around looking like the Eumenides.

This conceit raised false expectations at the start. One thought the music was meant to be that barbarously banal, in keeping with the staging, when it turned out that the score is empty simply because it is empty. Sometimes it seems as if

the composer has gone to sleep (there were one or two joining him), leaving the texture alarmingly open: one aria for Judith is accompanied only by the most discreet violin pizzicatos and trills from a mandolin. But, even when the music sounds finished, it never rises above the tepid.

It is, however, sung here so forthrightly and delightfully that one stops only occasionally to wonder that so little is being achieved. Jean Bailey contributes a warm but exact mezzo to the role of Judith, and Robin Martin-Oliver is excellently true and inspiring as Holofernes: it was a sensible decision to transfer the part to a counter-tenor, though one cannot regret that his servant is sung by a soprano when Helen Kucharek is so lively in the role, and her voice so thrillingly golden.

Karen Shelby is rich and smooth as the contralto Abra, Judith's companion, and Timothy Wilson floats fetchingly as the Bethulian high priest; this was another part that would have been taken originally by one of Vivaldi's girl pupils, for whom the work was written.

The band, somewhat grandly called the London Music Theatre Group Baroque Orchestra, is conducted without much excitement by Timothy Dean, and there are further performances tonight and tomorrow.

Paul Griffiths

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Unit trusts on brink of commission free-for-all

Yet more cracks are appearing in the buttresses of that crumbling edifice, the Unit Trust Association's commission agreement, and it looks as if it will go the way of the 'Life Offices' Association's arrangement. According to Mr Brian Brown unit trust groups will not have the wherewithal to sell regular savings schemes unless the commission structure is changed. Mr Brown is managing director of the Trustee Savings Bank Trust Company, the insurance and unit trust arm of TSB.

The removal of Life Assurance Premium Relief (LAPR) on life policies has concentrated the unit trust funds. How will they compete? While tax relief was available on life contracts, the unit trust industry took the view that in the investing public's perception, a unit trust was a very different animal from a life policy.

Now that LAPR has gone, there is little - other than investment performance - to choose between the two. The unit trust industry is not going to sit by and allow the insurance men to get ahead simply because they pay higher commissions.

The Unit Trust Association's commission agreement shattered last month when Arthurnot was forced to resign on the grounds that the renewal commission it was offering on its new Portfolio Fund was contravening UTA rules. Privately, there are many within the life assurance industry who feel that Government regulation - not just of commissions, but of management costs generally - is the only answer, both for the life assurance industry and for unit trusts.

They are afraid to admit to such a heretical view for fear of upsetting brokers and agents who sell their products, and their own colleagues within the industry. If commissions on both life and unit trust products were subject to a statutory maximum, the biggest losers would be the salesmen.

"I am not at all happy with the way things are going in the life business", admitted Mr Brown, a member of ROLAC (the Registry of Life Assurance Commissions) which is being cobbled together by the 'Life Offices' Association. No one really believes ROLAC will work, not least of all because several of the large operators in the life assurance market - including M & G and Save & Prosper - have refused to join.

It will be bad news for investors if the Unit Trust Association commission agreement collapses, too.

Compromise hope on accounting code

The Accounting Standards Steering Committee, whose last monthly meeting broke up in disarray after failing to agree a successor to its discredited standard on current cost accounting, has now hatched another compromise which its retiring chairman, Mr Ian Hay Davison, hopes will pass through next week's meeting with the elusive three-quarters majority.

In place of a compulsory but unenforceable set of current cost accounts, which are now blithely ignored by half Britain's quoted companies, it is now generally agreed that companies should instead merely list the main effects of inflation in notes to their accounts but that this should carry a greater degree of compulsion.

The main trouble all along has been the treatment of small companies, that do not have the resources (or in many cases the need) to make the sophisticated accounting adjustments necessary. This stopped the original standard being necessary to a "true and fair view" and also last month's idea that below-the-line adjustment should be essential to accounts representing a "true and fair view" for larger and quoted companies. Those concerned with small companies argued that this would create two classes of companies and that what was essential to accounts conveying a "true and fair view" for some, must apply to all.

Since then, a leading counsel has concluded that this "ain't necessarily so". It remains to be seen whether, according

to this version, the failure of a big company to incorporate the current cost adjustments in its accounts will lead to accounts qualifying their opinion that accounts represent a "true and fair view" or merely noting the omission in what the jargon terms an "amplification" of their reports.

The politics of the accountancy profession, in which the top eight firms are constantly looking to score points off each other and the different accounting bodies are jealous of their own interests, make the passage of the latest compromise far from certain despite the Trade Department's anxiety to resolve the matter.

In any case, as Mr Robert Willott of Spicer & Pegler points out in the new edition of his standard work *Current Accounting Law and Practice*, the main case for current cost accounting is as "an important internal management tool" rather than a stewardship tool: for directors who have to work out the implications of inflation for pricing, product strategy and investment rather than for shareholders. And as the unpopularity of the current standard has shown, the accountancy profession has yet to convince managers or even non-executive directors of the value of inflation accounting.

Government anger without justice

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the energy minister responsible for North Sea Oil, is angry that the American oil company Sun Oil has placed a £110m North Sea production vessel order in Sweden rather than with a British yard. The decision has an ominous ring for Cammell Laird, the Birkenhead shipyard which originally put in the lowest tender. Nobody should doubt the genuine patriotic motives of Mr Buchanan-Smith, a charming if damp Scottish MP, in regretting Sun Oil's decision, whether he also has right on his side is doubtful.

Sun is within its rights and sensible (alas) to shun Cammell Laird's bid.

In the circumstances Sun is being merely prudent, as the Government itself agrees privately, not to risk entrusting the revolutionary design for an economically marginal North Sea development to such mobile hands.

The question does arise whether in rejecting Cammell Laird Sun has given other British offshore construction yards "a full and fair" opportunity to tender for the work. Both the Howard Doris and Highland Fabricator yards in Scotland were interested in the contract. The government says, they have been given the cold shoulder by Sun in its indecent haste to award the contract to the Gotaverken yard. Yet nobody disputes that the Swedes probably have the best chance of delivering the vessel on time and within budget by the target day of summer 1986.

The Government's case is not strengthened by the fact that it approved the development plan for the Balmoral field last year before, it now appears, the final destination of the production vessel contract was settled. In retrospect this was surely an error of judgment, if, as the Energy Department tells us, it now has no legal power to reverse the approval. The plan was approved on the basis of assurances that Sun would, in accordance with traditional North Sea practice, place 70 per cent of the total orders associated with the field in Britain. Sun claims that it can still meet this target. The Government, noting that the £110m production vessel represents 20 per cent of the total projected development costs, is more sceptical.

Ministers may be right. Rather than threatening Sun and its partners with retaliatory treatment in future licensing rounds, however, they would surely be better advised to wait to see whether Sun's promises can be fulfilled before throwing the book at it.

Woolworth, so long the despair of the City, appears at last to have turned the corner which it once seemed it would never reach. This is a personal triumph for the new chairman, Mr John Beckett. But it is also an important success for the group of City institutions which led the £310m takeover of the British end of Woolworth from its American parent in 1982. The pretax profit for the year ended January 28 is £29.4m, compared with £6.1m previously. This contrasts with the relatively modest improvement in turnover, by £144m to £1.268m. The final dividend is 6p a share, making a total of 8p compared with a promise of 6p at the time of the takeover. As if to underline the strength of the performance, group borrowing has fallen by £90m and a property revaluation has produced a figure of £595m, a surplus of £140m.

The market was clearly surprised by the results. On the people the through rose to 473p, a 1983-84 high. But last night Mr Beckett made it plain that there was a long way still to go. "Look at B & Q, our D-I-Y chain, he said. "Profit margins there are running at 10 per cent, while the Woolworth stores themselves are making 0.7 per cent. That is the measure of how far we have to go". On the group's present turnover, that would imply profits of £126m.

Mr Beckett estimated that it would take another five years "to get it motorising". The main tactics are simply to cut out stores and selling lines which do not earn their keep. "Every week more than 15 million people go through our stores", he said, "but they spend only £22m. That is about £1.50 per head per week. We must find



John Beckett: "Still a long way to go"

ways of persuading them to spend more". This means concentrating on what are becoming regarded as the core businesses, a range of lines running from sweets to flowers and taking in records, toys, paint and Christmas decorations. So far, 45 stores have been closed or sold, leaving 930 in this country. That number will continue to fall. There are a few outlets abroad, mainly in the Republic of Ireland, Jamaica and Zimbabwe, all of which are trading poorly.

The overseas problems and the cost of revamping the layout of every British store will affect profits in the first half of this year, Mr Beckett warned.

He added: "We are engineering change internally in merchandise, stores systems and, very importantly, in attitudes. We are also engineering change in relations with suppliers. These are prerequisites if customers' perceptions of the quality and value for money offered by Woolworth are to change". That is why the chain which used to boast it sold nothing for more than a shilling is now moving into wine.

Commission orders changes at Rothmans

By Jeremy Warner and Ian Murray

The European Commission has forced Philip Morris of the United States and Rembrandt Group of South Africa to restructure their substantial share and voting interests in Rothmans International, the British tobacco company, so as to comply with its competition policies.

The EC began proceedings against both Morris and Rembrandt after Morris, one of the world's largest cigarette manufacturers, bought half of Rembrandt's controlling interest in Rothmans for £350m (£243m) in May 1981.

The two companies have now both agreed to make substantial changes to the way the deal was originally structured. The Commission believed it linked them closer together than was acceptable if cigarette competition in Europe was not to be distorted.

Under the restructuring, Morris and Rembrandt will separate their shareholdings and voting rights so that they will not be able to influence jointly the decisions of Rothmans. In theory they were able to do this under the original deal.

The Commission's ability to impose the restructuring would appear to dash any lingering hope in the stock market that Morris would be allowed to launch a full takeover bid for Rothmans and the company's share price fell 10p yesterday to 130p.

Although the restructuring has satisfied objections to the 1981 deal under European law, both Morris and Rembrandt still face legal proceedings in West Germany by the Federal Cartel Office, which also objected to Morris establishing links with Rothmans.

Morris has about 16 per cent of the West German cigarette market and Rothmans, with its Martin Brinkmann offshoot, has a similar share.

Under the 1981 agreement Morris and Rembrandt which is owned by the South African businessman Mr Anton Rupert, had an equal share in a holding company, which in turn held 44 per cent of Rothmans International's shares and controlled 50 per cent of its voting rights.

Move to help bolt industry

The Government is considering offering cash support to help rationalize Britain's troubled bolt manufacturing industry where some companies are suffering from overcapacity of up to 50 per cent despite extensive cutbacks in recent years.

Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry will meet representatives of the industry next week to continue discussions on the Government's efforts to rationalize Britain's steel related industries. In the past 10 years employment in the bolt manufacturing industry has fallen from 25,000 to about 8,000 people. Hardest hit is the standard bolt manufacturing sector which supplies the general engineering and construction industries.

Merrill drops Wedd action

By Wayne Limott

America's largest brokerage house, Merrill Lynch, has dropped its \$9m New York law suit against London's largest jobbers, Wedd, Durlacher Mordaunt.

The two companies announced yesterday that both parties agreed that such proceedings were not in their best long-term commercial interest.

Under the agreement neither party will pay any amount to the other and each side will pay its own, very substantial, legal costs. Both sides also said that they hope to resume the "excellent trading relationship" that existed before the commencement of litigation.

Merrill and another major American brokerage firm,

Lehman Brother, Kuhn Loeb, were jointly suing the London firm over Wedd's representation of a company called Pastor Securities in New York.

No mention of Lehman Brothers £2m action against Wedd was made in the announcement. Pastor Securities allegedly sold short some 1.7 million blue chip shares on Wall Street and bought back 784,000 shares through Wedd.

None of those shares nor the chief executive of Pastor was seen again. All in all, Pastor left American and European institutions with debts well over £17m.

Merrill was claiming that Wedd knew or suspected Pastor's intentions and was thus

reckless in "disregarding the fact that transactions which were effected by Wedd Durlacher were not part of a scheme to defraud Merrill Lynch".

Wedd did not lose from the transactions and the dispute quickly became acrimonious and bitter. Soon after the legal proceedings became known Wedd closed down its New York operations "purely for commercial reasons".

However, since December the "environment" surrounding the dispute has changed dramatically, according to an inside source. Wedd has linked with Barclays Bank as part of a potential new stock market trading body.

Hambros expands world interests

By Philip Robinson

Hambros Bank yesterday announced it was taking a £10m stake in Société Générale, the stockbroker, and the two were linking with Société Générale to form a £10m international dealership.

The trio introduces the first European link in City restructuring which has been dominated by British and American houses. Société Générale is among the world's top 10 banks.

The common link has been the Eurobond markets, where

all three are active. Strauss and Hambros have a close working relationship and also active.

Strauss and Hambros have a close working relationship and also personal links. Strauss and Société Générale already have a joint Eurobond venture, SGST, formed three years ago to trade in sterling and dollar Eurobonds.

M Jean Pierre Marchant, head of Société Générale's international financing divisions, said: "We had not thought about the link before Strauss mentioned it. For us it

was opportunistic. No other links are planned".

All three will eventually each own a third of the international dealership. Under existing Stock Exchange rules, Strauss must retain control. It has 51 per cent, Société Générale has 30 per cent, Hambros' initial stake will be 19 per cent.

The dealership should be ready to operate within weeks, but Mr Julius Strauss, senior director of the stockbroker firm, said it would start trading in the autumn.

£8.5m profit record for Collins

By Our City Staff

William Collins, the Glasgow publisher whose titles range from the Bible to the works of Jimmy Tarbuck, yesterday disclosed record profits for 1983, and Mr Ian Chapman, the chairman, hinted at an ever better 1984.

Pretax profits last year jumped from £4.7m to £8.5m, on turnover £25.5m higher at £105m. The final dividend is 7.5p, making a total of 11p, against 8.5p before. Net interest payable rose by £250,000 to £1.7m.

The main events last year was the acquisition of Granada Publishing for £8.7m cash, financed largely by a £6.5m rights issue. Despite the issue of extra shares, earnings per share moved ahead strongly from 23.4p to 38.8p. News International, the group to which Times Newspapers belongs, has a 41.68 per cent stake.

Mr Chapman said that the latest figures reflect progress in all areas of the business, including Granada.

It was the Granada deal which swelled borrowings and interest charges, cause of the need for more working capital. But at the year end borrowings were described as "satisfactory".

Tricentral's dividends for the year to last December were increased to 10p up from 8.4p. Turnover increased by £19m to £122m, but profit before tax was down to £43.7m from £49.2m, largely because of compliance with SSAP 20 the foreign currency accounting standard. After tax profit was up by more than £6m to £24.2m. *Temper, page 24*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lloyds cuts its home loan rate

Lloyds Bank is following National Westminster and Bank of Scotland in cutting its interest rates on mortgage loans. Lloyds is reducing rates for borrowers from 11.75 per cent to 11 per cent on repayment loans.

Monthly repayments come down by £7 to £141 on a £20,000 mortgage over 25 years.

The cut is effective from the beginning of next month. It will leave Lloyds more expensive than NatWest or the building societies for new borrowers.

S R Gent, the Yorkshire-based Marks and Spencer's supplier yesterday reported pretax profits up almost 30 per cent to £2.1m, for the half year to December 31, against a comparable £1.66m. Sales rose by 18 per cent to £37.8m, and the directors have an interim dividend of 1p net per share. *Temper, page 24*

CLIFFORD'S DAIRIES: Turnover for 1983, £66.67m (£61.30m). Pretax profit £3.21m (£2.78m). Total dividend 5.8p (5.4p).

Henry Ansbacher deal

Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, the Belgian banking and investment concern, is taking a substantial minority holding in Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the merchant bank, by putting up new capital at 100p a share. The shares in Ansbacher slipped by 7p to 91p yesterday.

Details of the capital injection have yet to be completed, but it is expected to give the

Belgian group a significant stake, along with Ansbacher's other two large shareholders. Under Mr Charles Williams, the managing director, Ansbacher has been developing as a trade-related financial service group and in 1982 it added insurance and shipbroking to its merchant banking arm with the acquisition of Seascope Holdings.

Results from two of Britain's leading independent television contractors, Central Independent Television, which has the Midlands franchise, and HTV, which serves Wales and the West of England, point to a dramatic improvement in trading fortunes.

Central TV's pretax profits nearly doubled in 1983 from £3.5m, the previous year to £6.8m, while HTV increased its pretax profits from £2.8m to £4.1m in the half-year to January 31.

Mr Bob Phillips, managing director at Central, said the company had effectively completed the reorganization which

Earnings jump at HTV and Central

By Andrew Cornelius

increased from £28.2m to £39.2m, publishing from £4.5m to £5.03m, while fine art income fell from £2.07m to £1.9m.

Pretax profits from television increased from £2.2m to £3.6m at the half-way stage.

American profits lift news groups

Two leading provincial newspaper groups are beginning to reap big rewards in North America which will help to offset the continuing depression of the British newspaper industry. Jonathan Clare writes.

United Newspapers which

publishes *The Yorkshire Post*, *Funch* and *The Countryman*, expects to make half its profits in the US during the current year. Last year total profits were £8.9m against £5.4m, only 20 per cent of which came from the US. The company's profits from newspapers increased by 98 per cent.

The *Liverpool Daily Post & Echo* also made a substantial profits recovery last year from £3.8m to £5.2m after rationalization in its paper making businesses and a £2.2m contribution from North America, where its Canadian companies turned in record figures.

Shares echo US anxiety

A nervous start to trading on Wall Street produced a late flurry of selling in London yesterday, where profit-taking was the order of the day.

The FT index ended the day 11.4 down at 890.0, while the FT-SE lost 13.5 to 1117.2. Most of the selling was in Blue Chips, which have led the market higher in recent weeks following the Chancellor's successful Budget proposals.

Double-figure gains were common among leaders, although dealers maintain that the market's undertone remains firm. Nevertheless, it was estimated that by the close of business last night about £1,000m had been wiped off share values.

Gilts lost ground, awaiting details of the latest US money supply figures. Dealers are still worried by the upward pressure on US interest rates.

Market Report, page 24

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index 1117.2, down 13.5 (High: 1125.4 Low 1117.0)
FT Index 890.0 down 11.4
FT Gilt: 83.0 down 0.15
Bargains: 28.177
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 113.24 up 0.86
New York Dow Jones Average: finished 1164.88 down 6.17
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10455.81 up 41.93
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 1156.07 down 1.22

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4310 up 10pts
Index 80.3 down 0.2
DM 3.7725 down 0.0150
FF 11.8050 down 0.0500
Yen 324.00 down 0.50
Dollar Index 127.6 down 0.1
DM 2.6370 down 0.0115
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4305
Dollar DM 2.6382

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 8%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 5%
3 month interbank 8 1/4-8 1/2% Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2%
3 month Fr 14 1/4-14 1/2%

LONDON fixed (per ounce):
am \$391.60 pm \$389.35
spot \$389.50-389.90 (£272.25-272.75)
NEW YORK (latest): \$389.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$401.00-42.50 (£280.25-281.25)

United Newspapers plc

FRIDAY MARCH 23 1984

1983 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

"The strengthening, diversification and expansion of the company continues"

David Stevens, Chairman

Summary of Results	1983	1982
Year ended 31st December	£'000	£'000
Turnover	113,121	97,547
Profit before taxation	8,858	5,441
Taxation (on post budget basis)	3,127	831
Profit before extraordinary items	5,731	4,610
Earnings per share (post budget basis)	20.7p	20.1p
Earnings per share (pre-budget basis)	24.3p	20.1p
Dividend	13p	12p

- * 62.8% increase in pre-tax profits.
- * Proposed final dividend up by 6.7% to 8p on enlarged share capital.
- * Significant savings in manning levels reflected in higher newspaper profits.
- * Magazines continue to make excellent contribution.
- * Retail shops turning in much better figures.
- * Overseas: PR Newswire Association reinforced and enlarged by Mediawire had a good year. Gralla Publications acquired initially for £29m will make a substantial contribution to profits in 1984.

"We have made great strides in 1983. We continue to seek out new opportunities both within the UK and overseas and we expect further progress within each division during 1984."

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 23-27 Tudor Street, London EC4 on Wednesday 16 May 1984 at 10.00am.



United Newspapers plc

Holmes a Court faces \$2.5m suit at Weeks

By Jonathan Clare

The seven top executives employed by Weeks Petroleum, the Connecticut oil business now controlled by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian entrepreneur, are suing the company for \$2.5m (about £1.7m). The claim is for compensation for a material change in employment after the change in control.

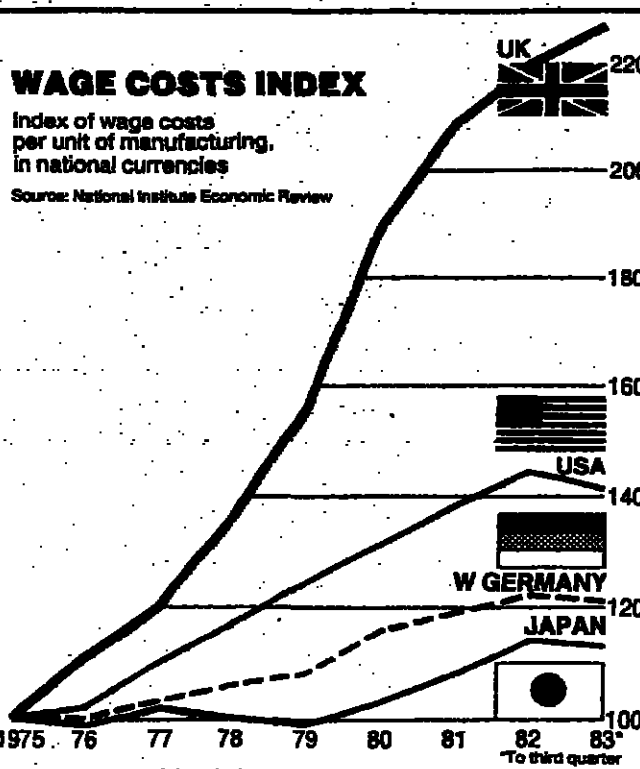
But all seven have stated that they wish to remain employed by Weeks. US employment contracts frequently have "golden parachute" clauses which may be triggered by a change of ownership.

Richard Price challenges argument that wages do not matter

Industry must compete to protect jobs

WAGE COSTS INDEX

Index of wage costs per unit of manufacturing, in national currencies
Source: National Institute Economic Review



Britain's competitiveness is on the knife-edge. The rate of increase of our unit labour costs is slow by recent standards but our competitors are doing well too.

During the year to last September, wage costs per unit of output were flat in Japan and fell by about 2.5 per cent in the United States and, West Germany, in their own currencies. That is the measure of the challenge facing British companies as they look at their individual pay and productivity objectives.

Yes, Mr Henry Neuburger's arguments against wage cuts (*The Times*, March 16) are utterly dangerous and look as naturally at home in today's environment as would a dodo fluttering uncertainly in Regent's Park aviary.

Consider the facts. British manufacturing industry is today on average 31 per cent less competitive compared with the other top industrial countries than in 1975 - a year not untypical of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s - and in the intervening period, its relative unit labour costs did, at one stage, show as much as a 60 per cent loss of competitiveness on the 1975 position. This would be all the greater but for a 17 per cent deterioration in the effective exchange rate during the same period.

Productivity

Giving away our standard of living in the form of an ever depreciating pound has never been an acceptable alternative to improving our relative pay and productivity performance.

Companies are struggling to maintain a presence in export markets and to compete with imports. Sometimes, and increasingly, they are spectacularly successful, sometimes moderately so, but that is frequently at the price of inadequate profitability, thus storing up problems for tomorrow. Sometimes they fail, and then jobs and capacity are lost.

Britain has continued to lose its share of world markets since 1975. Going back to 1960, its share of manufactured exports was 16.5 per cent. Now it stands at only half that figure. And for every further 1 per cent which Britain loses in world markets today, 250,000 people are added to the dole queue - both from the service and manufacturing sectors.

We have paid a high price for our failure to maintain our competitiveness, and those of us who are so desperately

concerned about today's appalling levels of unemployment, must dwell on this.

There has been a significant change of direction since 1981. We have started to recover some of the lost ground. Between 1975 and 1980, relative to industrial countries as a whole pay in British industry rose by 29 per cent and productivity fell by 18 per cent. These figures now stand at 42 and 7 per cent respectively, for the period since 1975.

Changes in the exchange rate made a substantial contribution in the latter period. And this was not unhelpful. For while devaluation is no substitute for getting pay and productivity right, there is a difference between a strong pound with which companies can live, and an overvalued pound which kills markets for them. But in terms of pay and productivity

relative to our competitors, the helter-skelter decline of the 1970s has been checked. We are more or less holding our own now.

A number of factors explain these more encouraging developments. One of the key elements appears to have been a greater recognition on the part of employees and employers that it is the viability of the individual unit or operation that matters.

External comparability, perceived "going rates" of pay on a national, local or industrial basis, have tended to become less relevant around the country's pay bargaining tables.

There is evidence that managements are able to operate with a greater sense of purpose today, at least partly because of improved understanding. Management is also better informed. It sets greater store by

communicating and consulting with employees.

There are some conspicuous exceptions to this pattern of more sensible industrial relations, well demonstrated at Warrington or the Nottingham pithheads this week. But the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts now provide employers with a remedy. While few managers believe that the law should have a more prominent role in industrial relations, the new legislation does go a long way to redress the bias against the employer, and improve the background environment within which a company's industrial relations are conducted.

We are moving in the right direction. But where does this leave Mr Neuburger and his colleagues? The price of labour has no bearing on the demand for it? Even in a closed economy this would be nonsense: the increased share of incomes in the national cake - whatever its size - would be at the expense of profits. Without adequate profits, there would be no capital and no employment.

Devaluation

But ours is far from a closed economy. We may still be an island geographically, but that is far from true in economic terms. Britain has one of the most open of the world's economies.

Mr Neuburger concedes some validity to the international competitiveness argument. He offers price control and/or devaluation as better answers. Neither is remotely acceptable. Confirmed failures of the past offer no recipe for the future.

When, three or four years ago, sterling soared to unrealistic levels, some companies selling exclusively into a secure domestic market were untroubled by the loss of competitiveness. The message struck home when the purchasing power of that market was diminished.

The same is true of our pay and productivity performance. As part of a trading nation, every company, whether or not it sells in the world market, is affected directly or indirectly by the degree of international competitiveness we enjoy.

In the interests of preserving today's jobs and trying to create more for tomorrow, it is essential that we ignore Mr Neuburger's advice. Better competitiveness signposts the road to lower unemployment.

The author is director of social affairs at the Confederation of British Industry.

Racal Marine chairman to head energy group

Racal Energy Resources Group: Mr David J. Peacock has become chairman and managing director. He will continue as chairman of the Racal Marine Group.

The Aviation Insurance Office's Association: Mr D. F. Floyd, aviation underwriter of the Eagle Star Group, has been re-elected chairman. Mr R. F. Dewlen, group aviation underwriter of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, has been re-elected deputy chairman.

CSM Parliamentary Consultants: Sir Brooks Richards has become chairman. Professor Quentin J. Hietpas has been elected a director and Mr Peter R. Jones has been appointed company secretary.

S. W. Farmer Group: Mr Robert J. Wills has been made a director and will be responsible for the engineering interests of the group other than structural steel.

W S Atkins Group Consultants: Mr John E. Moore, and Mr David G. Morgan have been appointed technical directors.

Citibank NA: Mr Colin J. Wark has become vice-president, head of the Midlands regional office in Birmingham.

AE Turbine Components: Mr

Michael Lerner has become finance director and company secretary.
Porth 84: Mr James Cotton has been appointed managing director of the company, a member of the A.J. Gooding group. He succeeds Mr David Taff, who is rejoining the Gooding Group central management team.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/4%
Barclays	8 1/4%
BCCI	8 1/4%
Citibank Savings	11 1/4%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co.	8 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	8 1/4%
TSB	8 1/4%
Nat Westminster	8 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/4%

† Base deposit rates of under £10,000, 5 1/4%; £10,000 up to £25,000, 6 1/4%; £25,000 and over, 7 1/4%.

Monthly Income Deposit Account

With effect from 24th April 1984 interest on Midland MIDAS Accounts will be reduced by 1/2% to 8% per annum.



Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

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Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate

Bank of Scotland announce that with effect from 2nd April 1984 Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate will be decreased from 11 1/4% to 10 1/4% per annum.

Bank of Scotland
Head Office, The Mound,
Edinburgh EH1 1YZ.



BANK OF SCOTLAND

CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION

'The company has now achieved a secure foundation'

REPORTS SIR GORDON HOBDAV, CHAIRMAN

Unaudited Results

Year to 31 December	1983 £'000	1982 £'000
Net income	129,235	109,314
Group profit before taxation	6,829	3,509
Taxation	(2,883)	(2,338)
Profit after taxation	3,946	1,171
Extraordinary item	147	(1,856)
Profit/(loss) for the year	4,093	(685)
Dividend	(1,625)	—
Transferred to reserves	2,468	(685)
Earnings per share before extraordinary item	15.8p	4.7p

The figures for the year ended 31 December 1983 have been extracted from the full accounts which have not yet been reported on by the Company's auditors and have not been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The extraordinary items arise as a result of the balance of a provision no longer required in relation to the closure of Elstree Studios.

- The profits for the year of £6.8 million before taxation exceed projections contained in the December 1981 Prospectus.
- Earnings per share rose from 4.7p to 15.8p and a dividend of 6.5p per share for the full year is proposed.
- The company's non-voting shares were admitted to the Unlisted Securities Market in September 1983.
- The East Midlands studio centre at Nottingham is now complete and operational.
- The company has now achieved a secure foundation and is well equipped to move forward into the more competitive era of broadcasting which lies ahead.

The Annual General Meeting of Central Independent Television PLC will take place on 25 May 1984, and copies of the 1983 Report and Accounts will be available from 2 May 1984, from the Secretary, Central House, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2JP.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 JANUARY 1984

Progress Report from Woolworth

In the course of his statement to shareholders, John Beckett, Chairman, reports:

The Results

The profit on ordinary activities before tax is £29.4 million compared with an adjusted figure for 1982/3 of £26.1 million. Interest charges have fallen from £40.6 million on a pro-forma basis in 1982/3 to £32.3 million as an actual figure in 1983/4. The reduction in working capital, mainly in stock in the Woolworth chain, gathered momentum during the year and, therefore, we expect to see a further fall in this charge in 1984/5. The profit on ordinary activities after tax amounts to £26.8 million against £6.1 million.

The surplus on disposal of properties, which had previously been treated as profit arising in the ordinary course of trading, is treated as one extraordinary item and the costs of rationalisation as a second extraordinary item. The extraordinary profits therefore amount to £26.6 million against a restated £19.9 million. The profit for the financial year, therefore, amounts to £53.4 million as against £26 million.

The progress made so far encourages the Board to recommend a total dividend amount above that envisaged at the time of the take-over. The proposed final dividend is therefore 6p per share, making 8p for the full year.

We commissioned external property valuations, the first since 1978, to give us a realistic assessment of values. These amount to £578.4 million which, after taking into account sales and additions made during the interval, is consistent in total with the values indicated by the F. W. Woolworth board at the time of the bid, though there are substantial variations in the values attributed to individual properties.

Management

A further feature of this year has been the building of a team at main Board level capable of carrying through the programme to bring the group to renewed retail success and a satisfactory return on shareholders' funds. This team is now complete.

We have re-organised the group so that the U.K. Woolworth's and the B & Q chains have become sister subsidiaries of Woolworth Holdings and we have grouped the overseas interests with the Republic of Ireland separately. The property company has taken responsibility for the properties owned or leased within the Woolworth chain and will charge the Woolworth chain a full market rent reviewable at intervals appropriate in a modern market-orient lease. Following the revaluation of assets, a further internal rent review will apply in 1984 based on that revaluation. This treats the Woolworth chain harshly compared with some retailers, but it does represent commercial realities and provides a management discipline.

B&Q

Pride of place must go this year to B & Q. Its sales rose to £197 million (1982/3 £139 million) and profits to £18.3 million from £9.1 million. Under Allen Foster's leadership, and with a first-class team of directors and managers, it continues to

- * Further successful expansion of B & Q
- * Competitiveness restored in the Woolworth chain
- * £94m reduction in Group borrowings

Salient Figures

From the Profit & Loss Account

	1983/84 UNAUDITED £m	1982/83 PRO-FORMA £m
Turnover	1,268.6	1,124.0
Retailing profit	28.4	12.4
Intra-group rental income	33.3	34.3
Net interest payable	(32.3)	(40.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	29.4	6.1
Tax	(2.6)	—
Profit on ordinary activities after tax	26.8	6.1
Extraordinary income - surplus on disposal of properties	36.0	26.7
Extraordinary charges	(9.4)	(6.8)
Profit for the financial year	53.4	26.0
Earnings per share	39p	9p
Dividends per share	8p	—

From the Balance Sheet

	£m	£m
Fixed assets	669.1	555.0
Stocks	161.7	208.7
Borrowings	208.9	302.7

The audited profit and loss account for the year ended 28 January 1984 is based on the latest financial statements of the company. These financial statements have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.
The corresponding amounts are based on the audited financial statements filed with the Registrar of Companies on which the auditors gave an unqualified report.

expand rapidly and successfully. The number of stores has been expanded from 101 to 113 and, with relocations, this gives an increase of 475,000 sq. ft. to over 3,200,000 sq. ft. in selling area. The recent purchase of five stores from W. H. Smith's DIY subsidiary is but one part of

their expansion programme for 1984. Sales from both new and existing stores have increased, at improved margins, whilst retaining a highly competitive price structure.

Woolworth U.K.

Much attention has been concentrated by the top team on planning and making a start on the revival of Woolworth U.K. Recruitment of talented retailers and specialists below Board level has proceeded apace to supplement the considerable experience and abilities of long-serving executives.

Profits recovered a little; stocks have been sharply reduced; the number of items in its merchandise range has been reduced radically and it starts 1984/5 with up-to-date stocks. Revised prices have restored its competitiveness in the High Street, albeit at some cost in margins. Its turnover rose from £962 million to £1,053 million in 1983/4. This increase is somewhat flattened, both by the general increase in retail expenditure and by the clearance of unwanted stock, but it is a matter of note that Woolworth U.K. maintained market-share after years of decline.

In late January and February the layout of every Woolworth store was changed by our own staff to give customers more room and comfort for shopping.
We are engineering change internally in merchandise, stores, distribution, systems and personnel policies and, very importantly in attitudes. We are also engineering change externally in relations with suppliers. These are prerequisites if customers' perceptions of the quality and value for money offered in Woolworth are also to change.

We are making tough decisions. Some stores will not meet our retailing criteria - the wrong size or location - and others will not foreseeably meet the rigorous financial criteria we have set ourselves; it is inevitable that further stores will be sold. Investment, both in stores and systems, will be required. We are building firm foundations for the long-term, even at some cost in the short-term.

Prospects

This year we have planned further store openings in B & Q and further change and development in Woolworth. The disruption caused by changing the layouts in all the Woolworth stores in six weeks has inevitably impacted on short-term sales and this, together with the deterioration in our small overseas activities, will reflect in the half-year results, but B & Q has again made a good start to the year.

We have approved a five year plan for B & Q which provides for a further substantial expansion of that chain. A commercial policy for Woolworth has been settled with great help from task forces drawn from all levels of management and specialists in the chain. There are core strengths; we are focusing on these strengths and developing others.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders in late April. Non-shareholders who would like a copy should write to Nigel Whitaker, Woolworth Holdings plc, Woolworth House, 242-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL.

WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS plc

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

11 or 3333
9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

[illegible]

Rugby at the crossroads: 3

Stop the Lions tours, we want to get on to the World Cup

The time has come to acknowledge that rugby is no longer the property of Britain and its former colonies of Ireland and of France. It is a world game and we believe that a permanent secretariat should be established to assist the conduct of rugby in individual countries, to facilitate tours between countries, to respond to questions of interpretation, to be a final court of appeal. All of which need not detract from the authority of individual unions, of whom the existing IB countries have always been at pains to disseminate knowledge to those seeking it.

A permanent body would be in a position to monitor progress in all rugby-playing countries. England, for instance, are contemplating a visit to South Korea. Information - for English and Koreans - could be made available through a permanent body at regular intervals before the visit occurred.

The Koreans, to retain them as an example of a developing rugby nation, might identify with a world authority either through some form of associate membership or directly through a representative who would ensure they were kept abreast of world trends. At present their nearest IB representative is in Australia, with whom links are fairly tenuous.

Moreover, a permanent body such as we envisage, probably based in London, would be ideally placed to negotiate a world cup competition. Hitherto rugby's powers have set their face resolutely against such a competition, possibly because of pressure by marketing groups outside the game, yet there is a growing tide of opinion - not necessarily in Britain - favouring a world cup.

How often have we, in the media, labelled games between outstanding teams as an unofficial world championship - such as the game between Wales and South Africa in 1951 for example? That, in itself, of course does nothing to justify a world competition but much more soundly-based considerations do.

Firstly, in a players' game, it would be a logical summit for any player. Secondly, it would generate intense interest in the game and create a huge amount of revenue which, because the competition would be organized

The International Board meets in London this week to consider the future of rugby. In the concluding part of this series by our rugby writers, DAVID HANDS and GERALD DAVIES propose changes which would widen the game's horizons while retaining its traditional spirit.

within the game and not by some external body, would be used for the benefit of rugby throughout the world.

Apart from the sums which would go to the unions involved in the later stages of the competition, certain monies could be designated to the poorer, rugby-playing countries for the welfare and development of their game. The competition would answer many of the needs of the stronger non-IB such as Romania, Argentina, Russia and Italy, who feel excluded from international affairs under the current arrangements. They would derive a yardstick for their own development, they would rub shoulders with players of different social and ideological backgrounds, they would inevitably learn more about the game.

The effects of a world cup, too, would be progressive. One country having achieved the status of world champions, competing nations would be keen to bring them down, just as in domestic competitions, the holders of the John Player Cup in England, the Ranfurly Shield in New Zealand, the Currie Cup in South Africa, find that teams they meet play that much harder and regard victory as a greater achievement if they can bring down the holders. Spectator interest becomes greater and more revenue is generated to the benefit of the club, province or country.

If this suggests that the purpose of the game is to make money, that is only partly true. These days every club, every country needs money but the other advantages come from the increase in standards, or organization, selection and playing standards.

We do not, however, suggest that a world cup be placed on top of the existing playing arrangements. Such a competition, every four years, would probably mean the end of British Lions tours, currently taking place every three years.

Nowadays, the Lions run counter to the requirements of individual countries. The four

home unions work hard to establish a good national side, one which may have distinctly different characteristics, strengths and weaknesses, from the other three. Their work is maintained when they tour abroad but is dissipated when a handful of their leading players are chosen for the Lions, whose management then faces the task of blending four different styles into one cohesive whole in an increasingly short time.

The same problem faces incoming touring sides: it is asking too much of Australia - or even New Zealand - to give them an 18-match itinerary, including four internationals and the Barbarians, and still expect them to enjoy the peripheral benefits of touring. The logical answer is for the four home unions to tour individually and for incoming tours to be partitioned, visitors going to Wales and Ireland one winter, England and Scotland another winter.

It may be argued that New Zealand would miss the Lions and the revenue they create. The visits of the last two Lions sides suggest they will not miss much on the playing side and if they were assured of a regular visit from one of the four home countries in successive years (with breaks to encompass France and Australia), there would be few complaints.

Is there any place in our brave new world for amateurism? Emphatically yes, because that is one of the great strengths and the enduring qualities of rugby union. We do not believe that players want to be paid for playing the game, though it should be appreciated that amateurism means different things to different nations.

Moreover, we believe there is something intrinsically good about the maintenance of a game which is played for itself rather than any monetary reward. This is not to say that players should be cut off from any conceivable benefit of their links with the game. What is the difference, for example, when Malcolm Dacey, the Welsh stand-off half, is offered a job as

a company representative with the increase in salary and accompanying perks the new job entails, and when Bill Beaumont earns a sum of money for writing an autobiography?

If he were not an international rugby player, Dacey might not have been offered the job. Nor, is every rugby player going to rush to his typewriter when his active days are over. The market in sports books is not so huge. At the moment the regulations allow players to trade on their status in some ways but not in others; in the process they hinder the game by preventing talented people from returning something to the game as coaches or administrators.

The amateur ethos also ensures the multiplicity of character involved in the game. Rugby has long outgrown its class-conscious image: players come from all walks of life, artisan and artist, professor and plumber.

Those who play at the highest level can still identify directly with those at the social end of the scale and it is important that, at the end of the game, player and spectator can meet on an equal footing at the bar, maintaining a valuable sense of perspective.

The lawmakers, administrators and players should ensure that violence on the field happens as little as possible. Violent players reflect an unhappy social trend but players whose behaviour off the field is unacceptable should not be considered for selection at any level.

The laws, of themselves, cannot prevent misbehaviour; they, or their interpretation, can lead to frustration on the field, thence to misbehaviour. How much a simplification of the laws is needed.

The work on a rewrite of the laws has, of course, been done. The only requirement is a panel of experts, legal and technical, to ensure general approval and a new set of laws can be drawn up.

There is a moratorium on the laws until next year; perhaps a suitable printer can be found by then or maybe an individual union will be brave enough to go ahead on its own. There is no lack of foresight and courage in today's game. It must be harnessed, for the sake of tomorrow.

Billiards could be about to burst into flame



Billiards is the gentleman's game. You have it on no less an authority than a gentleman called Fred Davis. Photograph by Ian Stewart.

What a nice change billiards makes in this snooker age

It is the gentleman's game, the subtle one, a game of unlimited variety. Fred Davis says, a game of clever little nudges, a game for those of austere taste, and a lovely change from all the crash-bang-wallop of multi-coloured snooker. Billiards: the game whose use, for the most part, is restricted to those moments when your opponent pockets that decisive black and you remark: "Of course, billiards is a much better game, you know."

This is the week when the world professional billiards championships are being played at the Majestic Snooker Centre in Portsmouth, with £8,000 in prize money. Peanuts, of course, by snooker standards, but could it be that a smouldering interest in billiards is about to burst into flame?

Here is Fred Davis, the top seed, who has been playing billiards for more than 60 years. He is now aged 70 - calmly click-clicking the balls about the table in their delightful red and white patterns: cannon and pot, cannon and pot. He holds the record for the highest post-war world championship break, scoring 583 when he beat Rex Williams in 1980.

Over to snooker

"It was all billiards when I started," he said. "It was my ambition to be world champion at billiards. Well I got the boy's title, then the junior title - and then they gave it up almost overnight. They all went over to snooker."

And that was in the 1930s, long before the start of the snooker boom we witness now. "The billiards pros were so good in the early Thirties that they were getting breaks of 4,000," Davis continued. "They were so good the spectators lost interest. They made the game look so easy

that they were no longer appreciated. After that, well, there was just about enough billiards played to stop the game from dying."

But down in Portsmouth this week every one is talking about saying "Isn't this great?" and "What a nice change this makes". For what with one thing and another, we do get rather a lot of snooker on television these days, and the result is that the golden-age-laying goose has her moments of looking a touch under the weather.

Wonder to behold

And that brings us to Channel 4. Portsmouth was full of a quiet buzz about a televised billiards tournament, doubtless to be called *For White*. Adrian Metcalfe, head of Channel 4 sport, said: "Yes, we have been trying experiments with televised billiards and we are quite encouraged by the trials. We are moving forward slowly."

There is the question of format: Fred Davis's 583 break, though doubtless a wonder to behold, would not fit into a readily digestible television package. It is a matter of organizing a kind of one-day cricket version of the sport: "Something that gets the flavour of it without bastardizing the game," Metcalfe said. The best of three games of 100-up is one notion.

"I'm a firm believer that playing billiards makes you a better snooker player," Davis continued. "A billiards player will always have an edge in positional play. And I think pro snooker players should support billiards more. They would if there was more prize money. I always play a lot of billiards in practice and I know Steve Davis does the same. The thing is, billiards is such a nice game."

Simon Barnes

CRICKET

Finding out how much England have learnt

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Lahore

England's position after three days of the third and final Test match against Pakistan corresponds to what it was after three days of the first Test and it will be fascinating to see how much more successful they are in coping with it. Here, as in Karachi, Abdul Qadir looks to hold the key... unless Pakistan's faster bowlers should strike first thing this morning while there is still some dew in the pitch.

With Fowler and Smith already out in the second innings, England are looking to Gating, Gower, Lamb and Randall to get them enough runs to have any kind of a winning chance, and none of them has yet played in Pakistan anything resembling the sort of attacking innings that will be needed.

In the first Test match, when the fourth day began, England had eight second-innings wickets in hand and were 41 runs behind. This time,

Lynch ban after S African tour

Mente Lynch, the Surrey batsman who toured South Africa with the West Indian "rebels" this winter, will not be considered for selection for the England Test team for four years by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). The TCCB stress that the ban on Lynch is not intended as a punishment. It is meant to "defend the interests of English cricket by demonstrating the Board's determination to preserve the interests of multi-racial cricket," and to "provide a deterrent."

again with eight wickets in hand, they are 37 runs behind. In Karachi, Smith and Gating rather than Smith and Fowler were out while Botham rather than Gower made one of the four remaining batsmen.

In Karachi, when the match there was resumed, England lost their last eight wickets for 105 runs. Qadir making jelly of them.

The pitch had more bounce and turn in it than the present one, but not a lot more. Qadir, too, had a useful heftman in the off-spinner Taufiq, who has since been dropped. To all intent and purpose things were the same, except in what should be the vital matter of experience.

To see which of England's batsmen look the wiser today will be of much interest. A Faisalabad, Go to all Randall and Gower made runs against Qadir, and Marks certainly seems to have worked something out. Here on Monday, though, Qadir was still among the wickets with five for 84. Today comes the end-of-term examination.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	Unit Type	Unit Size	Unit Price
1. 1st Unit	1st Unit	1st Unit	1st Unit
2. 2nd Unit	2nd Unit	2nd Unit	2nd Unit
3. 3rd Unit	3rd Unit	3rd Unit	3rd Unit
4. 4th Unit	4th Unit	4th Unit	4th Unit
5. 5th Unit	5th Unit	5th Unit	5th Unit
6. 6th Unit	6th Unit	6th Unit	6th Unit
7. 7th Unit	7th Unit	7th Unit	7th Unit
8. 8th Unit	8th Unit	8th Unit	8th Unit
9. 9th Unit	9th Unit	9th Unit	9th Unit
10. 10th Unit	10th Unit	10th Unit	10th Unit
11. 11th Unit	11th Unit	11th Unit	11th Unit
12. 12th Unit	12th Unit	12th Unit	12th Unit
13. 13th Unit	13th Unit	13th Unit	13th Unit
14. 14th Unit	14th Unit	14th Unit	14th Unit
15. 15th Unit	15th Unit	15th Unit	15th Unit
16. 16th Unit	16th Unit	16th Unit	16th Unit
17. 17th Unit	17th Unit	17th Unit	17th Unit
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19. 19th Unit	19th Unit	19th Unit	19th Unit
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22. 22nd Unit	22nd Unit	22nd Unit	22nd Unit
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28. 28th Unit	28th Unit	28th Unit	28th Unit
29. 29th Unit	29th Unit	29th Unit	29th Unit
30. 30th Unit	30th Unit	30th Unit	30th Unit
31. 31st Unit	31st Unit	31st Unit	31st Unit
32. 32nd Unit	32nd Unit	32nd Unit	32nd Unit
33. 33rd Unit	33rd Unit	33rd Unit	33rd Unit
34. 34th Unit	34th Unit	34th Unit	34th Unit
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57. 57th Unit	57th Unit	57th Unit	57th Unit
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59. 59th Unit	59th Unit	59th Unit	59th Unit
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61. 61st Unit	61st Unit	61st Unit	61st Unit
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70. 70th Unit	70th Unit	70th Unit	70th Unit
71. 71st Unit	71st Unit	71st Unit	71st Unit
72. 72nd Unit	72nd Unit	72nd Unit	72nd Unit
73. 73rd Unit	73rd Unit	73rd Unit	73rd Unit
74. 74th Unit	74th Unit	74th Unit	74th Unit
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78. 78th Unit	78th Unit	78th Unit	78th Unit
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81. 81st Unit	81st Unit	81st Unit	81st Unit
82. 82nd Unit	82nd Unit	82nd Unit	82nd Unit
83. 83rd Unit	83rd Unit	83rd Unit	83rd Unit
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86. 86th Unit	86th Unit	86th Unit	86th Unit
87. 87th Unit	87th Unit	87th Unit	87th Unit
88. 88th Unit	88th Unit	88th Unit	88th Unit
89. 89th Unit	89th Unit	89th Unit	89th Unit
90. 90th Unit	90th Unit	90th Unit	90th Unit
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92. 92nd Unit	92nd Unit	92nd Unit	92nd Unit
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94. 94th Unit	94th Unit	94th Unit	94th Unit
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97. 97th Unit	97th Unit	97th Unit	97th Unit
98. 98th Unit	98th Unit	98th Unit	98th Unit
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100. 100th Unit	100th Unit	100th Unit	100th Unit

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear, Peter Daville, Clive Hedley

BBC 1

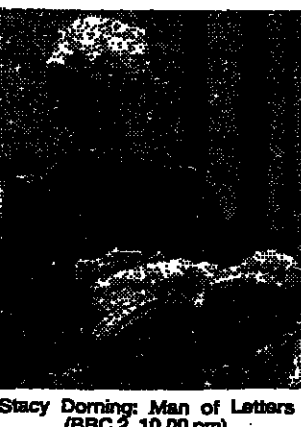
- 6.00 Cee-fax AM.
- 6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Fern Britton. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; review of the morning papers at 7.15 and 8.15; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening tips between 7.30 and 7.45; pop music news between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.33; food and cooking hints between 8.30 and 9.00.
- 9.00 Food and Drink includes an item on how processed foods now dominate our diet (shown yesterday). 9.30 Cee-fax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Brian Jameson (P). 10.55 Cee-fax.
- 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial report followed by new headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 Peckinpah at One. Includes a performance by the Japanese Demon Drummers of Sado. 1.45 Bagpuss. (P).
- 2.00 Film: Rachel and the Stranger (1948) starring Robert Mitchum. Pioneering Western story about a farmer who buys a wife to look after his son and the drifter to whom the young wife becomes attached. With Loretta Young and William Holden. Directed by Norman Foster. 3.30 Cee-fax. 3.48 Regional news (not London).
- 3.50 Magic Roundabout (P). 3.55 Play School, presented by Chloe Aschcroft. 4.20 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (P). 4.30 Cee-fax. 4.40 Detective investigates the Small Planet of Secrets.
- 5.10 The Secret of Steel City. The third and final part of the adventure series based on a Juliet Taine story. The story is set in a Czechoslovakian production (P).
- 5.40 Sixty Minutes includes news read by Richard Whitmore at 5.40; weather at 5.55; regional news magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 5.58.
- 6.40 Dr Who. Continues in episode two of The Twin Dilemma.
- 7.05 Film: The Swann (1978) starring Michael Caine and Katharine Ross. Science fiction drama that is unintentionally very amusing. Caine plays an entomologist brought in by the White House to dispose of a plague of killer bees devastating Houston. Produced and directed by Irwin Allen (first showing on British television).
- 9.00 News with John Humphrys.
- 9.25 World Figure Skating Championships. Coverage of the Original Six Pattern Dance section featuring Torvill and Dean. Plus the highlights of the Pairs Free Programme. The commentator is Alan Weeks.
- 10.15 Potter. Fund raising for the new church bolder comes under the microscope. Potter's segs. Starring Robin Bailey (P).
- 10.45 News headlines and weather.
- 10.50 Film: Pursued (1947) starring Robert Mitchum and Teresa Wright. A tense Western with Mitchum playing Jay Rand who falls for the daughter of the woman who raised him when he became an orphan. His feelings for the girl are the catalyst for a period of revenge and destruction. Directed by Raoul Walsh. Ends at 12.35.

tv-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Jayne Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; consumer affairs at 8.40 and 9.00; fishing hints at 6.45; exercises at 6.50 and 9.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; guest in the spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day, Stephanie Lawrence at 7.40; Friday postbag at 7.50; pop video 7.55; the weekend's television highlights at 8.35; Geraldine James 'stabs it out' at 8.40.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: the bloodstain. 9.47 The death of King George VI. 10.09 A story told through dance techniques. 10.26 Describing past, present, and future. 10.43 How to avoid unemployment. 11.05 The evolution of children's magazines. 11.22 Rapunzel - Grimm's fairy story. 11.39 History: Man's cultural revolution.
- 12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch (P). 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets and guest John Styles. 12.30 Lissadale. A young wife to look after his son and the drifter to whom the young wife becomes attached. With Loretta Young and William Holden. Directed by Norman Foster. 3.30 Cee-fax. 3.48 Regional news (not London).
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- 5.40 Sixty Minutes includes news read by Richard Whitmore at 5.40; weather at 5.55; regional news magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 5.58.
- 6.40 Dr Who. Continues in episode two of The Twin Dilemma.
- 7.05 Film: The Swann (1978) starring Michael Caine and Katharine Ross. Science fiction drama that is unintentionally very amusing. Caine plays an entomologist brought in by the White House to dispose of a plague of killer bees devastating Houston. Produced and directed by Irwin Allen (first showing on British television).
- 9.00 News with John Humphrys.
- 9.25 World Figure Skating Championships. Coverage of the Original Six Pattern Dance section featuring Torvill and Dean. Plus the highlights of the Pairs Free Programme. The commentator is Alan Weeks.
- 10.15 Potter. Fund raising for the new church bolder comes under the microscope. Potter's segs. Starring Robin Bailey (P).
- 10.45 News headlines and weather.
- 10.50 Film: Pursued (1947) starring Robert Mitchum and Teresa Wright. A tense Western with Mitchum playing Jay Rand who falls for the daughter of the woman who raised him when he became an orphan. His feelings for the girl are the catalyst for a period of revenge and destruction. Directed by Raoul Walsh. Ends at 12.35.



Stacy Dornier: Man of Letters (BBC 2, 10.00 pm)

PEARLY GNASHERS (Channel 4, 10.30 pm) contains a reminder that, despite the recent scandalous disclosures that some buccannering dentists make vast amounts of cash by doing things to us that aren't absolutely essential, and despite the fact that dentists generally continue to get their priorities wrong by putting the treatment of disease before the prevention of it, things could be a lot worse. At least we have said goodbye to the days when the local blacksmith (or, worse, the itinerant mountebank) would jam his foot against our chin and yank out teeth with a length of string. Tonight's film is also enlivened by the rare spectacle of the dentist who is actively seeking to put himself out of business. His is a sugar-free kitchen. Outlaw success, he says, and there will be more empty seats

CHOICE In the dentist's waiting room... MAN OF LETTERS (BBC 2, 10.00 pm) is the work of two writers, Gillian Tovey and John Graham. It is such a brief and feather-light affair that you might wonder, as I did, how it could possibly have kept two minds and four hands occupied. It is a whimsical piece that owes much to its period, an innocent summer of 1928, when a 12-year-old lad could get as much vanilla ice-cream as he could get for two pence and cafe waitresses went all week-kneed over song-and-dance men at the end of the pier. On reflection, I think it was a tactical error for the lead to view the idealized waitress through a pink haze. Rose-tinted glasses are what you look

back at the past through when the years' innocence have passed. Graham Fawcett's short feature THE WORKS OF LOVE (Radio 3, 7.00 pm) is an acknowledgement both of the poetic sensitivity of Ivan Lali, as expressed in his own impromptu words, and of his sensitive poetry, as read by Ann Aris and Mr Fawcett himself. The possibility of time past and time present being contained in time future (Lali's philosophy) is the recurring theme in much of the Serbian's writing, and he dwells with particular deep feeling on the 'terrible wholeness of memory'. In his poem about his walk through a street in Dubrovnik during which 'the angel of oblivion broke his wings following my footsteps'.

Peter Daville

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University: Maths Methods: Springs. 6.55 Journey into Frequency Space. 7.28 Chemistry: Poisons that Paralyse. 7.45 Psychology: Questions of Behaviour. Ends at 8.10.
- 9.00 Cee-fax.
- 9.08 Daytime on Two Science topics: metals. 9.25 Maths: Odds and evens. 9.38 Part nine of the adventure The Boy from Space. 10.15 Maths: massive endings. 10.38 Reproduction and survival. 11.00 Working drawings. 11.22 Geography: Ghana. 11.44 Youth Training Scheme. 12.05 Making the most of the Micro. 12.30 Complex computer controlled devices. 12.55 Cee-fax. 1.28 Working with wood. 2.01 blind man's colour prejudice. 2.30 The arguments for and against vivisection.
- 2.50 Cee-fax.
- 5.05 Weekend Outlook. Open University programmes to be seen over the weekend.
- 5.10 The Treaty of Versailles. An Open University production (P).
- 5.15 News summary with subtitles.
- 5.40 Film: Lavender Hill Mob (1951). The first of a short season of films celebrating the 70th birthday of Alec Guinness. He plays Mr Holland, a timid bank clerk whose job it is to supervise building deliveries. But behind the diffident exterior there is sharp criminal mind plotting to steal a million pounds in gold. Directed by Charles Crichton.
- 7.00 ORS 84 presented by Peter Powell. Another edition of the electronic music magazine, this week featuring music from Lost Love Ones.
- 7.45 The World About Us: Mori - the New Dawn. Michael Dean reports on the resurgence of the Mori's belief in themselves.
- 8.35 Gardeners' World. Graham Rose of the Sunday Times talks to Pauline Dowder about the history of Wallington Gardens, part of the Northumberland estate owned by the Trevelyan family. (Cee-fax titles page 270).
- 8.00 Daisy Pulls It Off. A post gets east the camp's payroll.
- 9.25 Whickard Wildlife is the theme and his guests are Tippi Hedren, Hugh Hudson and Malcolm Cowie.
- 10.00 Play: Man of Letters. A 12-year-old boy, bored with a holiday with his father, finds himself drawn towards a hotel waitress. Starring Michael Jayston, Stacy Dornier and Alan Cox (see Choice).
- 10.35 Newsnight.
- 11.50 International Badminton. Highlights of the Yonex All England Open Championships. Hosted by Richard Thompson, Bill Davis and John Hirst. Ends at 12.35.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30 Racing from Doncaster. Brough Scott introduces coverage of four races from the second day of the opening flat race meeting of the season - the Haywards Puddles Stakes. 2.45: the Daily Mirror. 2.55: the Daily Mirror. 3.05: the Daily Mirror. 3.15: the Daily Mirror. 3.25: the Daily Mirror. 3.35: the Daily Mirror. 3.45: the Daily Mirror. 3.55: the Daily Mirror. 4.05: the Daily Mirror. 4.15: the Daily Mirror. 4.25: the Daily Mirror. 4.35: the Daily Mirror. 4.45: the Daily Mirror. 4.55: the Daily Mirror. 5.05: the Daily Mirror. 5.15: the Daily Mirror. 5.25: the Daily Mirror. 5.35: the Daily Mirror. 5.45: the Daily Mirror. 5.55: the Daily Mirror. 6.05: the Daily Mirror. 6.15: the Daily Mirror. 6.25: the Daily Mirror. 6.35: the Daily Mirror. 6.45: the Daily Mirror. 6.55: the Daily Mirror. 7.05: the Daily Mirror. 7.15: the Daily Mirror. 7.25: the Daily Mirror. 7.35: the Daily Mirror. 7.45: the Daily Mirror. 7.55: the Daily Mirror. 8.05: the Daily Mirror. 8.15: the Daily Mirror. 8.25: the Daily Mirror. 8.35: the Daily 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